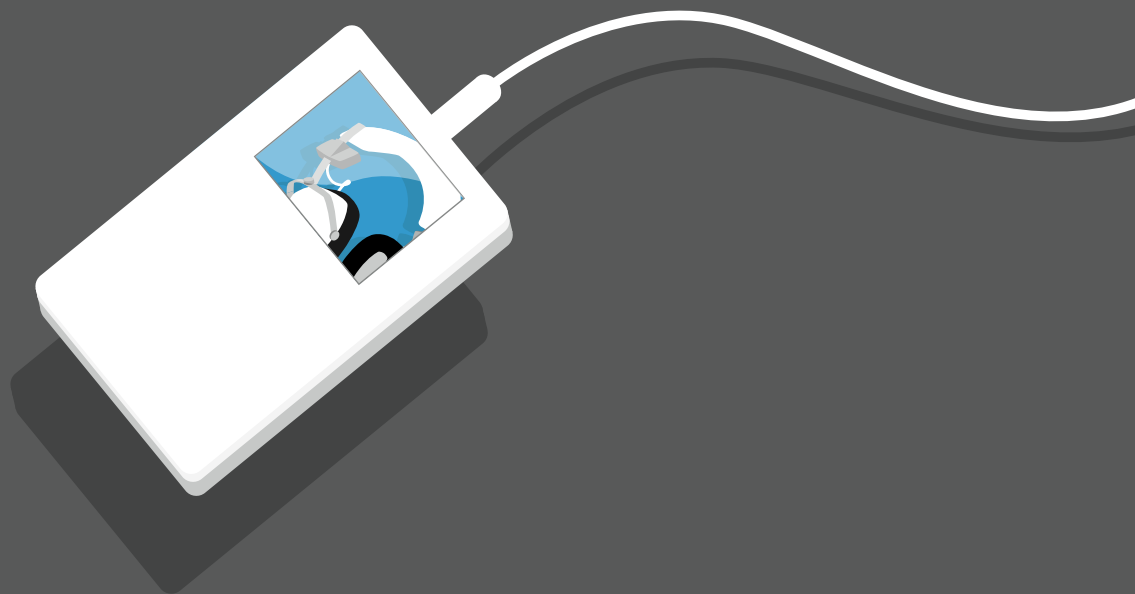


the free iPod book

& back to school guide



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The Free iPod Book 1.0



Above: "City Heat, Chicago, Illinois"
Winning Entry Submitted to the iLounge
X Marks the Spot Contest

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Our special iTunes guide offers over 100 easy tips to help you make the most of Apple's free music software.

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Note: All advertisements appearing in this Buyers' Guide are clickable.

Foreword: A Free iPod Book? Some readers have asked us for printed copies of our previous Guides. So why give away an entire iPod book for free?

When we decided in January that we were going to release three Guides this year, up from the one we produced last year, we knew that one of them was going to be something different and special from the others. This is the one.

Since our founding in 2001, we have been dedicated to providing excellent, free iPod information online, and we are always trying to find better ways to serve the needs of our readers. With the back to school season about to start, now seemed like the perfect time to create a book. But we wanted something more fresh and timely.

So what you're looking at is our first-generation **Free iPod Book** - a distillation of all of the iPod and iTunes tutorial information you might want into a single PDF download. For free. With brand new photos and information mixed in for fun as a **Back to School Guide**.

We always love to look at the latest and greatest iPod accessories - and we know you do, too - so we've included two sections of them: future accessories, shown in Sneak Peeks, and a summary of the best accessories we've recently reviewed, found between pages 38 and 49. In addition, we've also included a great collection of photographs from our **iPod World Flags Contest**, with three prize-winning entries, and as you'll see on page 72, we're starting a **brand new trivia contest**, too. Three people are going to win Klipsch iFi stereo systems, each valued at \$399.99 - not too shabby.

But as you've surely guessed from the name, our Free iPod Book has two main parts. First is **an extensive, birth to death to rebirth** look at the iPod, which will speak for itself inside. Second is **an equally major but fun guide to iTunes - a book, remixed**. Our goals for both were the same: make them useful, but keep the tips short, and stick to the stuff people care about. Our special thanks to Larry Angell and Bob Starrett for their principal editorial contributions to 101 iTunes Tips.

We've also created something entirely new: **the iPod Directory**. This listing of reputable vendors of iPod products and services is designed to provide an easy reference if you need help finding a place for repairs, the customer service number or e-mail address for a company that makes a certain type of accessory, or even the numbers for Apple, HP, or other vendors of iPod/iTunes-compatible hardware. Effective immediately, this Directory is available in searchable form from our site, and in simple list form in the back of this Guide. Thanks to Jerrod Hofferth and Bob Levens for their help in compiling the new Directory.

We hope that you enjoy The Free iPod Book, and find it useful. See you in our Holiday Buyers' Guide!



Dennis Lloyd
Publisher

A passionate, long-time lover of Apple products, **Dennis Lloyd** (dennisl@ilounge.com) was a graphic designer and DJ before creating the iPodlounge and iLounge sites. Dennis directs our forums, photo galleries, iPod User Group, and general business affairs, which have grown under his watch to include approximately three million readers and numerous accolades. Happily married with one dog (Rocket the Wonderdog), one cat (Ferris), many iPods, and two turntables, he lives in and loves Irvine, California.



Jeremy Horwitz
Editor-in-Chief

Jeremy Horwitz (jeremy@ilounge.com) has written for publications ranging from Electronic Gaming Monthly to The New York Times, having founded and edited Ziff-Davis' Intelligent Gamer magazine. A cum laude graduate of Cornell Law School and author of the book Law School Insider, Jeremy presides over editorial content for both iLounge and our Guides, focusing special attention on iPod reviews and new technologies. He lives with his Siberian Husky Sake (Sah-kay) and rooms full of iPod add-ons in Irvine, CA.

Larry Angell

is iLounge's Senior Editor, specializing in news. Based in Ohio, Larry has covered Apple for years, owned nearly every iPod, and spent way too much on iTunes downloads. He previously worked in the mobile electronics industry with world champion car audio professionals, and currently lives with his girlfriend and cat.



Bob Levens

is iLounge's Chief Forum Administrator, podcast moderator, and a contributor to the site. Located in Cambridge, U.K., Bob has worked in such diverse career fields as the nuclear power industry, TV and radio engineering, the Royal Air Force and the Ministry of Defense. He lives with his wife, dog, and four iPods.



Contributing Editors, Forum Admins, Mods, and Helpers:

Austin Agarwal, Jerrod Hofferth, Jesse Hollington, Kirk McElhearn, John, Mike McKenney, Aaron Steele, Andy Hedin, Adam Shawley, Deeg, Douglas Adams, Alicia Bankhofer, Bill Mcnair, Albert Tan, Audrey McGirt, Daniel Paolucci, Gerard S., James, and Stuart VandeVenter.

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State of the iPod. A brief look at the iPod family's past, present, and future, based on stories from the frequently updated news pages at iLounge.com.

Do Summer Colors + Falling Prices = Happy Winter?

Apple discontinues grayscale iPod in favor of cheaper color model, plans "fifth-generation" iPod as shipments soar



It was an unceremonious end for the design that started it all: in late June, without a press event or a 21-gun salute, Apple Computer discontinued its last remaining full-sized, black-and-white-screened iPod. Left alone when the larger 40GB model was pulled from shelves in February, the 20GB iPod remained popular because of its fair \$299 price tag and more than adequate music storage capacity.

But competitive threats pushed Apple to preemptively step up its game. At \$299, the new low-end color 20GB iPod offers visible benefits over \$300-350 products from companies such as Sony, including all of the album art and picture display features that were previously reserved for premium "iPod photo" models. A black-bodied, color-screened 20GB U2 model sells for \$329, while a 60GB white version now sells for \$399, a drop of \$50 since February. The company's 30GB color model, once sold for \$349, was phased out.



Illustrating the challenges of the low-end flash player market, Apple also quietly dropped the price of the 1GB iPod shuffle from \$149 to \$129, a sign that the feature gap between \$149 shuffles and \$199 minis was too great to justify their small price difference. The strategy appears sound: Apple now ships around 6 million iPods per quarter, even in traditionally soft selling seasons, and has sold over 21 million.

What's coming next? Apparently the fifth-generation iPod. Though the former iPod photo is technically the fifth unique product to bear only the name "iPod" (see family photo, left), a senior Apple executive told iLounge that today's color iPods are still "fourth-generation" iPods. leading to the conclusion that the company plans fifth-generation iPods and iTunes for the near future. With the mysterious appearance of video management functionality in version 4.8, could a video-ready iPod be too far off? We think not.

iTunes Music Store adds countries and podcasts, hits 500,000,000 sold mark, now readies for cellular music

Will any four months be as momentous as these were for iTunes? Apple's music hub has expanded in almost every conceivable direction: its Music Store today boasts over 1.5 million available songs, 500 million sold, and customers in 20 different countries, now including Japan, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Free content also abounds. iTunes 4.9 added a directory and integrated support for podcasting - free radio-style news, opinion, information and comedy audio downloads released by big

and little broadcasters across the globe. The first million podcast subscriptions were made in under a week.

What's next? Tinkerers discovered an odd icon hidden in iTunes 4.9 - what appears to be Motorola's RAZR cellular phone. (See **101 iTunes Tips** for more details.) New but hidden dialog boxes mention an iPod Phone, too. The company plans a phone-related announcement by September's end.



Need more news? We provide up-to-the-minute iPod reports on our front page at iLounge.com, and maintain an archive of news stories dating from 2001 to the present day at ilounge.com/index.php/ilounge/archives/.

The iLounge Nine. Think you know everything we've added to the site since our last issue? Here are the nine biggest changes, with more to come.

[illegible]

The iLounge Week in Review (6):

Last year, we developed a recorded audio program called the iPodlounge Podcast - a summary of interesting iPod news and reviews, recorded using an iPod and Griffin's iTalk Voice Recorder. This year, we've changed the format to a Week in Review news summary, which will be moderated by our own Bob Levens and feature editorial commentary from two iLounge editors. You can download the Week in Review from the iTunes Music Store or grab our feed directly from [feed://feeds.feedburner.com/loungecast](http://feeds.feedburner.com/loungecast).

Expanded Backstage at iLounge (7):

When we're not listening to our iPods, we're talking on our phones, playing games, or checking out other cool gadgets. And we love to talk gadgets with our readers. So our Backstage editors' blog has evolved: now, if a story's directly iPod-related, it goes first onto the main iLounge site, and typically into our News or First Looks sections. But if it's a tangent or gadget-related, it goes on Backstage. If you're looking to learn about the iPod's competitors, or new technologies that may influence the development of future iPods, bookmark Backstage (backstage.ilounge.com) and visit daily. The comment threads are especially good.

Heavy-duty iTunes Tutorials (8):

iPod hardware and accessories have been our meat and potatoes for a while, but Apple's iTunes software has been increasing exponentially in both importance and complexity. Today's iTunes manages music, audiobooks, Internet radio and podcasts, album art, photo galleries, and even movies. So we've expanded our coverage of iTunes to help you make the most of its many features, offering a new easy-to-read tutorial every week. You'll always find it as one of the top rotating features on our main page.

First Looks - From Backstage to Front (9):

Response to the Sneak Peeks accessory preview section of our last Buyers' Guide was strongly positive, so we created a similar weekly feature for the iLounge web site. Once each week - or twice when something really important comes out - we take a quick look at all of the week's new iPod accessories, providing fast details, opinions and pictures in advance of our comprehensive reviews.

And There's More to Come...

We're not changing for the sake of change: we're doing what's necessary to build the world's biggest and best resource for iPod and iTunes users. If you haven't had a chance already to check out all of these new features, we hope you'll take a look, and as always, please send your comments and suggestions to dennis@ilounge.com.

[illegible]

Sneak Peeks

Whether you're on campus, at home, in your car or jetsetting across the world, our Back to School edition of Sneak Peeks will have something that fits your iPod life. But wait for our hands-on reviews before rushing to stores.

Speakers. Who would have guessed that iPod-specific stereo systems would be so popular? Wireless technologies and amazing new designs are empowering the new generation of speakers for dorms, homes, or offices.



Tivoli Audio iSongBook

If the name doesn't make sense at first, realize this: **Tivoli Audio's** new **iSongBook** (\$329) is only two inches thick, and features both a flip-open iPod dock and a right speaker that actually detaches from the rest of the system for expanded stereo separation. These features take major steps to remedy omissions from the company's earlier iPAL, a rich-sounding and water-resistant single-speaker

radio which sees all of its features expanded upon here. iSongBook's radio is now digitally tuned with a backlit screen, and works as an alarm clock with "wake from radio" or "wake from iPod" options, amongst others. A remote with Playlist and Album buttons is included, too. If its sound is as warm as iPAL's, Tivoli's next chapter - due for the holidays - will be sweet, for sure..

Oregon Scientific iBall

A wireless iPod speaker system? That's the idea behind **Oregon Scientific's** upcoming **iBall** (\$299), a combination clock, two-channel speaker system, and iPod dock. iBall's speaker enclosure is a classic Apple iMac-inspired fusion of clear and white plastics, adorned with a LCD screen that displays both analog time and iPod status. Controls are found on iBall's top above its three total speakers - two tweeters and a full-range driver that functions as a subwoofer. Bass, treble, and volume are easily adjustable.

The iPod dock can be moved 100 feet away from the speaker unit, a feat made possible by spread-spectrum 2.4GHz wireless technology. Otherwise, it works just like Apple's top-of-line iPod Docks, with audio, video and data ports. A wall mounting kit and wall power adapters are included; the iBall can also run off of six rechargeable C-cell batteries. Expect to see it in stores in October.

JBL On Stage II

Rumored for months, the successor to **JBL's** cool little flying saucer speaker system On Stage (iLounge rating: B+) is finally ready to take a public bow. **On Stage II** retains the four-driver, dish-like design of its predecessor, coupling two channels of sound with a resizable iPod or iPod mini dock. It's also designed solely to run off of wall power, so despite its small profile, the new On Stage won't be accompanying you to any frisbee tournaments.

But now there's a remote control - not just any remote, but rather one based upon Griffin Technology's excellent RF radio-based AirClick (iLounge rating: A-). Unlike many of On Stage II's competitors, then, you'll actually be able to change volume and tracks from 50 feet away, and through walls. And its pass-through Dock Connector port makes it suitable to keep next to your computer for iPod/iTunes synchronization, too. Expect On Stage to return for an encore in October.



Blumac Cerulean

A dual-purpose stereo system for the iPod? New iPod add-on maker **Blumac** has developed **Cerulean** (noun: a deep sky blue color), a set of amplified silver speakers that will come with a unique, case-friendly iPod dock and remote control (not shown). The amplifier and subwoofer unit is perfectly sized to hold Apple's

inexpensive Mac mini computers, and uses a silver metallic casing that matches its two satellite speakers. Mesh grilles cover two sets of two speaker drivers, with a less noticeable grille at the bottom of the subwoofer. Cerulean is expected to launch this November at a price under \$200, and the company promises superb sound.



Monitor Audio i-Deck

If you're going to make a pricey speaker system, you'd better do it right. Great Britain's **Monitor Audio** looks to have gone almost the full Monty with **i-Deck** (£249.99, approx. \$436.00), a free-standing, 17.3"x 7.5"x 5.7" speaker and amplifier system. Two drivers per 18-Watt channel are mounted in separate, position-flexible left and right enclosures, each of which can be wall- or table-mounted. Bass and midrange are channeled through 4-inch drivers, while treble goes through 14 millimeter tweeters. There's also a substantial matching center charging dock that can be resized to fit virtually any iPod, plus an auxiliary input for other devices, and a 2.4Ghz radio-based remote control. We haven't heard how it sounds yet, but we dig the angled, interesting design, and expect to be monitoring this one carefully until its August release.

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iPod 3D adaptors



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ipod photo mini shuffle

FM Tuners and Transmitters. Radio waves are everywhere; these new add-ons capture them and let you hear them with your iPod, or broadcast them so that you can hear your iPod from a distance. One even *records* radio.

Kensington Digital FM Transmitter/Radio

Building on the success of its excellent Digital FM Transmitter/Auto Charger (iLounge rating: A-), **Kensington** is planning a potentially even more exciting accessory: the fully portable **Digital FM Transmitter/Radio** (\$79.99) will use the same great-sounding Aerielle audio technology for FM transmission, plus add a digital FM radio receiver to the mix.

Just as with BTI's TuneStir (iLounge rating: B-), you'll be able to hear your favorite radio stations through your iPod, but Kensington's unit plugs directly into your iPod's top instead of dangling from a cord. We're still not sure how the radio will sound - this was a sticking point on the TuneStir - but if Kensington can approach the quality of its in-car FM transmitters, we could be in for a major treat. Expect this to appear on store shelves in October, and be compatible with standard iPods and iPod minis.



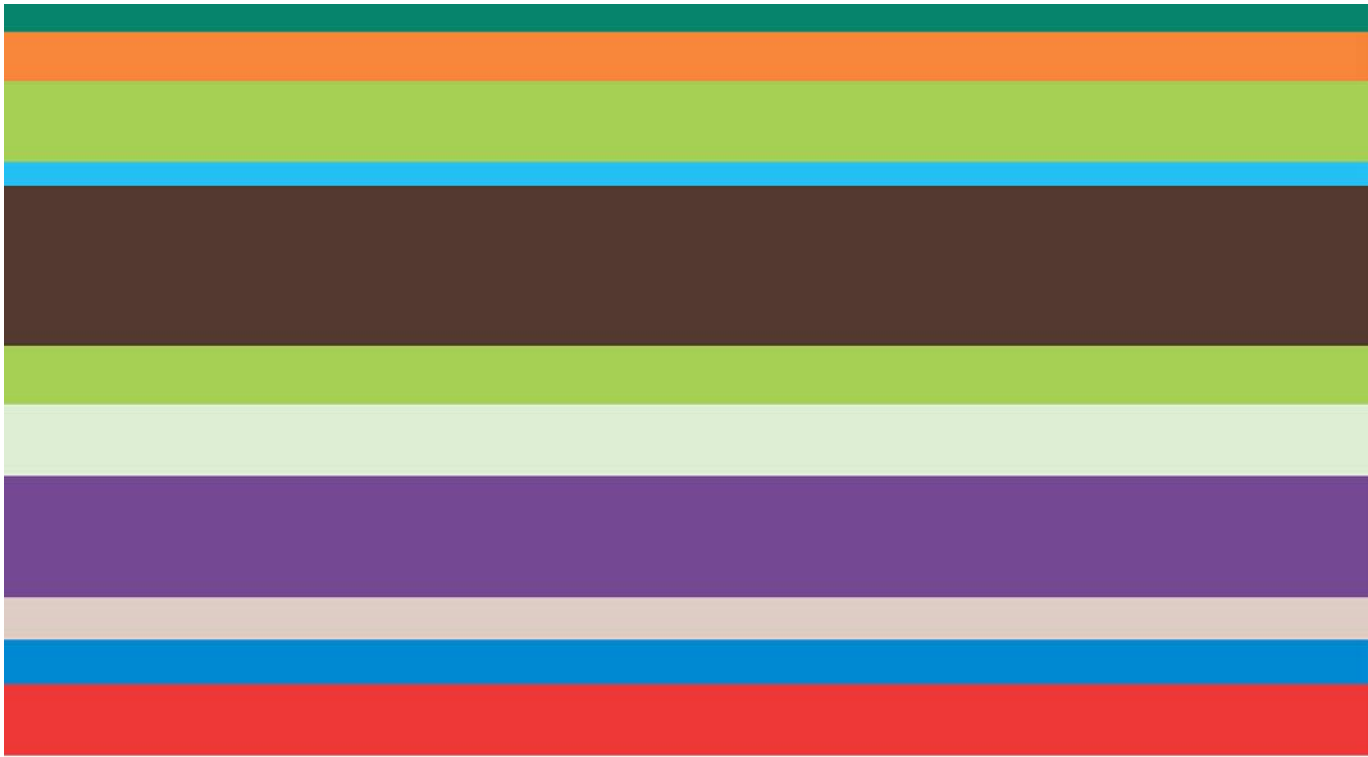
Griffin iFM Radio/Remote/Recorder

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, **Griffin's iFM** - the first FM radio tuner announced for the iPod, then cancelled some time ago - has been resurrected. The new iFM design is significantly smaller and more fully functioned than the one originally planned, with the abilities to record live radio broadcasts (at 8kHz) to your iPod, and serve as a complete remote control, too. There's a backlit, easy-to-read LCD display, and the company is hoping to near-concurrently release software that can help you identify tunes you've recorded off the radio for easy purchase at the iTunes Music Store. Best of all is the projected price: \$40-50, quite a bit less than its competing options. Expect iFM to debut in August, and be compatible with full-sized iPods and iPod minis.



Belkin TuneFM

Last year's FM transmitters were difficult to tune, and more recent alternatives have used small LCD screens, so everyone's been working on easier-to-use solutions. **Belkin's** upcoming **TuneFM** (\$39.99) uses a huge LED display to show you the current station that's tuned in, and makes tuning incredibly simple with four capacitive, touch-sensitive buttons on its top. Two of the buttons (labeled 1 and 2) store and tune pre-set stations, while the other two (+ and -) rapidly move you through the FM spectrum. A large hold switch on the back prevents accidental button presses. TuneFM will be released in November, and an iPod mini-sized model is also planned.



iVod Rasta



iVod



iVod DJ

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Cases. Are there too many iPod cases? No - just too many me-too designs. But a couple of top case makers have come up with innovative new ideas that might change the way people think of cases... and make them collectibles.



Sumo Cases PlayThru Cases



It's almost a cliché at this point: find fabric, wrap around iPod, sell on eBay at inflated price, and you're an "iPod case maker." And then there are the

dozens of PDA-style cases that look and feel almost identical to one another. There are reasons that good iPod cases stand out from the rest - ingenuity, quality, and pricing.

Sumo Cases' previous run of Flap and Sleeve cases were different, well-made, and affordable. The company's now doing even better with its **PlayThru Cases**, which are similar in materials and protectiveness to Flap and Sleeve, but provide easier access to the iPod's controls inside. Pull open the front flap, which on some cases is horizontal, and vertical on others, and you can use your iPod without compromising its protection.

Combining ballistic nylon with a leather patch, the "Vertical" iPod version of PlayThru (left, above), will sell for \$29.99 starting at the end of this month. A "Horizontal" iPod version made from leather (right, above) will sell for \$39.99, and an iPod mini model (right, below) will sell for \$34.99, both planned for later this year. Expect the pink mini one to include a matching soft leather leash. All of the PlayThru cases include belt clips.



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Incase Special Editions

If too many companies tried the gimmick, limited edition iPod cases would be old news. But after developing a collection of boutique-ready Pouch, Wallet, and Journal cases (previously reviewed on iLounge), **Incase** has quietly pioneered another new genre with its **Special Edition Pouches** (\$39.99), each designed specifically for the launch of an Apple Store, and sold only at that specific store - instant collector's items.

First to be released was St. George (right, the flag of England - not the United Kingdom) for the opening of the London Regent Street store, followed by Maple Leaf (left, based on the flag of Canada) for the Toronto store, and Hachiko (center) for the Shibuya, Japan store this month. An immediate sell-out, Hachiko is named for a famous Akita dog who returned every day to Shibuya's train station to await his master's return, continuing even for nine years after his master's death. The memorial statue depicted on the case's front now stands in his place at Shibuya Station.



Clothes. From shirts and jackets to backpacks and lanyards, worthwhile iPod fashion accessories have finally arrived. This second generation generally sports better features and more subtle looks than yesterday's music wear.

Koyono BlackCoat T Series



Some of the nicest-looking shirts we've come across are **Koyono's BlackCoats**, which range from \$35 to \$45 based on style (and sell for \$24-29 "off season"). Each T includes a central pocket that's sized to hold an iPod, connecting through a passageway to another compartment. The pocket can be inconspicuous black or bright red on a black shirt, or white or red on a white one. Koyono's standard T is short sleeved; the TL is long sleeved, and the Tx is the tank top. The company also sells tricots, coats full

of compartments, vests and other accessories for the gadget and style-obsessed.



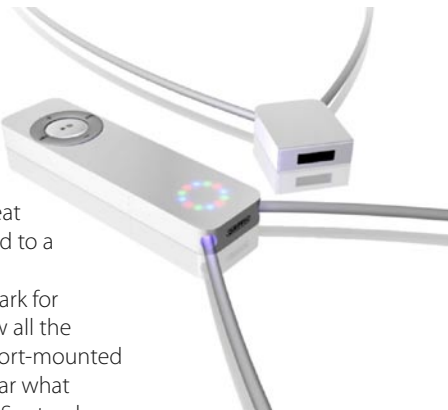
Design Annex iBeat

Fashion headphones? Yup. The earbuds on **Design Annex's iBeat Illuminating Headphones** (\$29.95) will instantly look familiar to fans of Apple's iPod pack-ins, but the cord is something entirely different. Powered by two AAA batteries, iBeat actually glows when you're wearing it - steady, or pulsing to the beat of your music. We've tried it - it works, and works well. Mounting via one of three frosted clear plastic clips to the back of any model of iPod (even the shuffle), iBeat's small white breakout box lets you control the unit's pulses. Five colors are available: pink, white, blue, orange, and green. Expect to see iBeat by the holidays.



Griffin Technology iRave

Though we'll have to wait to see one in person before we're convinced that it's as hot in execution as in concept, **Griffin's** new **iRave** (\$19.95) is the ultimate iPod shuffle lanyard: instead of just adding a necklace to your shuffle, it actually adds a collection of colored lights that pulse in sync to the music you're playing. Visualization is nothing new in the digital music world, but it's a great addition to the iPod - and well-suited to a screenless device like the shuffle. The included lanyard glows in the dark for a completely rave-ready effect - now all the shuffle needs is a tiny headphone port-mounted speaker system so the world can hear what you're pulsing to. The iRave starts in September.



O'Neill H2 Communication and Entertainment Jacket

We promised ourselves that we'd try not to think of O'Neill's latest iClothes as re-treads of Burton's Amp Jacket and Amp Pack (released in 2003 for \$500 and \$200, respectively), but the similarities are striking. **O'Neill Europe's** new **H2 Jacket** (approx. \$575) is the short name for the HUB 2 Communication and Entertainment Jacket, successor to 2004's HUB - a technical snow jacket with a 128MB MP3 player and Bluetooth phone connectivity integrated into its shell.

H2 junks the no-name MP3 player in favor of the iPod; there's an integration box, headphone managers, an iPod pocket, and soft control buttons on its sleeve - bigger than Burton's. And H2 preserves its predecessor's ability to interface with Bluetooth phones. A microphone in the collar is there just in case you want to take calls while doing 1080s off of mountains.

At least two colors of H2 are planned for European release in September - a yellow version, and a black version. U.S. availability is unknown. Thanks to our friends at iPodFun.de for the pictures, and thanks to O'Neill for hiring Silent Bob's partner Jay for a modeling gig!



O'Neill H2 Integrated Solar and Entertainment Backpacks

If you like the concept behind the H2 Jacket but can't afford the threads, the company's new nylon **H2 Integrated Solar Backpack** (approx. \$300) or non-solar **Entertainment Backpack** (approx. \$175) might be more to your liking.

Both bags use similar iPod and Bluetooth integration technologies as the Jacket, placing the iPod's controls on a strap and the iPod in a water resistant pouch near your back. A mic in the left shoulder strap lets you field calls, and like the jacket, calls can interrupt and pause your iPod's music automatically.

The Solar version's flexible panels can recharge your iPod, cell phone, or Bluetooth module with its integrated solar panels, and apparently can provide juice to all three under optimal conditions, otherwise selecting and supplying the device in most dire need. O'Neill's cheaper Entertainment Backpack lacks the solar panels. Both backpacks are available in Europe now, with U.S. plans as yet undetermined.

Everything Else. From home to club, car to school or work, the iPod has somehow found ways to fit into any place you want to take it. These new gadgets bring out the best of your iPod in a wide variety of locations.

Numark iDJ Mixing Console

Planning a house party? Just want to practice your DJ skills? Here's the first iPod-dedicated mixing console. **Numark's iDJ** (\$399.99, coming this September) is a two-channel mixer that can blend two docked iPods, an iPod and a non-docking digital music device (such as an iPod shuffle or a third-party MP3/CD player), or an iPod and separate turntables. It's smaller and lighter than it looks: under a foot on each side and under three inches in thickness, four pounds total weight.

When used with iPods, you get oversized navigation panels from each connected unit, and recharging during playback. Separate phono, line, and microphone inputs allow you to bring in other devices on both channels, and a 3-band equalizer with separate gain control on each channel keeps your levels where you want them. Surprisingly, the console even includes a USB port so that it can function as a traditional iPod dock, but you're probably going to want to keep this bad boy mounted on a turntable spindle, which it'll fit without a problem.



Belkin TuneCommand

Remote controls? Been there, done that. But **Belkin's** radio-based **TuneCommand** (\$49.99) promises to outstrip the performance of most remotes currently on the market, with a 150-foot broadcasting distance and the ability to scroll through color-screened iPods' photo slideshows from a distance. There are also dedicated buttons for shuffling and repeating, plus nice included clip and lanyard pack-ins. TuneCommand's larger profile feels better in the hand than the tiny remotes that have dominated the iPod market to date, and its receiver unit docks on top for storage as shown above. Expect to see it in stores this month.



Griffin iTalk 2 One-Click Voice Recorder

How do you improve upon our top-rated iPod voice recording attachment? According to **Griffin Technology**, make it easier and more powerful. The original iTalk (iLounge rating: A-) deftly combined a very good microphone, analog automatic gain control, a speaker and a dual-purpose headphone/external microphone port to create a useful, great-sounding recording tool. **iTalk 2** (\$39.99) preserves all of these features, and adds two more.

First, there's a single button on the unit's top - it activates recording mode and then saves your recording, eliminating your need to use the iPod's interface at all. Second, it uses an improved, digital automatic gain control system for superior identification of whatever sounds are important in the room, though Apple's mediocre cap on the iPod's sampling rate (8kHz, monaural) means that you will still mostly only use iTalk 2 for voice recordings, not music. Expect it in late August.



iPort In-Wall IW-1 through IW-5

If you've tried to create a whole-home audio system with your iPod, you already know about iPort (iLounge rating: B+). Now Dana Innovations' new **iPort** division has developed five new versions of its iPod docking station (\$200-\$1100), each with a self-adjusting base plate, and with additional features that improve with each step up the price chain.

Like last year's iPort, the new **IW-1** (\$200) charges an iPod and outputs unbalanced audio and video, including a wall plate for audio only - a video wall plate is optional. IW-1 is the only model that can't be customized with optional feature card add-ons.

The **IW-2** (\$350) adds an integrated IR receiver, and is compatible with optional feature cards for balanced audio (\$275), balanced video (\$325), and RS232 communications (\$225). iPort's RS232 card enables the docked iPod to provide metadata such as artist, track, and playlist information for viewing on separate video displays. The remaining three models are bundles of the IW-2 with various feature cards: **IW-3** (\$600) bundles the IW-2 with the balanced audio card, while **IW-4** (\$800) bundles the IW-3 with RS232, and **IW-5** includes the IW-4 and the balanced video module. All of the models and the optional feature cards are now shipping.



Harman Kardon Drive+Play

Surface-level add-ons aside, retrofitting car stereo systems for iPod playback isn't an easy feat: to the contrary, it's expensive, invasive, and sometimes doesn't look as hot as you'd hoped. (BMW's iPod-in-hidden-compartment integration kit wasn't exactly what we had in mind.) That's why **Harman Kardon** - related by blood to iPod speaker makers JBL - came up with **Drive+Play** (\$199.95). The system includes three key parts, namely a replica of your iPod's screen with five lines of text, a large, illuminated control knob that duplicates the Click Wheel found on current iPods, and a wired box that connects itself to these components, your car's stereo, and your Dock Connecting iPod. There's even a line-in port so that other devices, such as iPod shuffles or satellite radios, can access your car's speakers.

How does it actually integrate with your car? You have two options: there's a programmable FM transmitter inside for cars that have no line-level capabilities, a solution that will strike some as underwhelming for the price tag. There's also a line-out jack for cars with direct audio inputs, which car installers can add separately to most vehicles for an additional \$100-150 - the preferred solution. Stylish but roundabout unless you go for a full install, Drive+Play will be available in September.



Bonus: Belkin Dock Adapter



Want to use your iPod shuffle with your old iPod add-ons? **Belkin's Dock Adapter** (\$19.99) turns the ol' USB plug into a female Dock Connector, ready to be plugged into iPod battery charging and audio accessories. For instance, It'll work with Belkin's TuneBase FM (below), cabled Auto Kit, TunePower battery, and more - starting upon its release in September.



10+1 STEPS TO

iPod BLISS

Did you know?

44%

of iLounge readers surveyed said they use their iPods for more than audio.

73%

of those surveyed said they still have at least 25% of the iPod's space left.

The Guide to What's Inside:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Installing The Right iPod Software | 20 |
| 2. Connecting Your iPod To Your Computer | 21 |
| 3. Filling Your iPod | 22 |
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The iLounge Report Card | 60

In this update to our popular Report Card, we offer our ratings of over 500 iPod accessories and iPods, which we've been reviewing online since 2001. Full reviews of all of these items are available at ilounge.com/index.php/reviews/.

1

Installing The Right iPod Software. Running Apple's packed-in iPod & iTunes installer CD is a no-brainer, but you'll also want to get newer versions of Apple's software, plus some key non-Apple tools.

Always Start with Apple's CD



Every iPod comes with a data CD full of files: manuals (called User Guides) for different iPods, one full tutorial and links to web tutorials, information on the latest iPod software, and two actual pieces of software: an **iPod installer**, and **one for iTunes**. The good news is that any CD that comes with an iPod contains everything needed to use that iPod, convert your CDs to iPod-ready files, and transfer your music to your iPod. If you never download another thing, you'll be fine. But you'll miss out on improved iPod or iTunes software, and won't be able to back up your iPod's music to a PC. So after you've installed Apple's CD, check out the options below to add some useful extra software that people have found handy.

Your packed-in installers for iTunes and any iPod will give you a solid minimum level of useful tools and features. But Apple and other companies are constantly finding ways to add cool new features - and bug-fixes - to their products, so we'd recommend that you consider each of these additional options after you've finished running Apple's CD.

Update Your iTunes and iPod

After you've installed the CD that came with your iPod, you can download two free updates from Apple's web site. Start with the latest **iPod Updater**, available from apple.com/ipod/download/. As of today, the latest updater is dated 2005-06-26, and gives recent-model iPods easy access to podcasts downloaded from



iTunes. Then get the newest version of **iTunes** from apple.com/itunes/download/. Today, that's version 4.9, which adds support for easy podcast downloading and tagging.

Copy From iPod to Computer

Every iPod owner eventually asks this question: "how do I transfer files off of my iPod and back onto my computer?" We answer the question fully in our **101 iTunes Tips** Section, but here's the short version: Apple doesn't permit this with iTunes, so you'll need to download a separate program such as **Senuti** for Mac (free from wbyoung.ambitiouslemon.com/senuti/), **PodUtil** for the Mac or PC (£10 Shareware fee, kennett.net.co.uk/software/podutil.php), or **iPod Agent** for the PC (\$15 after free 15-day unlimited trial, ipodsoft.com/index.php?software/ipodagent).

Then, Update It and Add Extras

Copy LPs, Tapes, and More

iTunes is easy and powerful, but it does have limits. Third-party companies such as Roxio now sell tools that go beyond iTunes' ripping and downloading:

Roxio's Boom Box (\$49.95) for Macs includes tools to turn vinyl albums, cassette tapes, and even written text (web pages, eBooks, and text files) into iPod audio files. Own a PC? A number of programs will help you turn your LPs or tapes into iPod-ready MP3 files. There's a free recording option called



Audacity (audacity.sourceforge.net) that is great, but less intuitive than The Boom Box's solution. For a complete tutorial on how to handle LP/cassette conversion with Audacity, read "Guide 2" found at forums.ilounge.com/showthread.php?s=&postid=273807.

Drag and Drop Your Music

If you prefer to avoid iTunes and use the familiar drag and drop method to put files on your iPod, **Anapod Explorer** (anapod.com, \$20-30) lets PC owners do that - and more. Bypassing iTunes, Anapod can shrink high-quality versions of your songs to take less iPod space, transfer from iPod to PC, and even let you access or stream your iPod's music over the Internet.

2

Connecting Your iPod To Your Computer. If your PC or Mac has a USB 2.0 port, you don't *need* anything else. But you may *want* faster transfer speeds or a way to safely mount your iPod on a flat surface.

Easy: USB 2.0



Every computer sold today includes at least one **USB 2.0 port** - a rectangular hole, shown at left below, that provides power and the ability to transfer data back and forth between connected devices. In our tests, a USB 2.0 connection transfers files from a computer to an iPod at around 240 Megabytes per minute, or 1 Gigabyte every 4 or so minutes. That's pretty good, but not as fast as the iPod is capable of transferring files.

Three connections

Left: A USB 2.0 port. Most PCs have one, so every iPod includes a USB connector.
Center and Right: FireWire 400 and 800 are faster, but you'll need to buy cables.



Advanced: FireWire & Docks

If you're willing to spend a bit more, you can boost the speed of your iPod's file transfers to around 400 Megabytes per minute, a 66% increase over USB 2.0 speeds. How? If you're using a Mac, all you'll need is a FireWire cable. **Apple** sells the **Dock Connector to FireWire Cable** for \$19, but **Griffin** sells **Dock400**, an identical cable for only \$14.99. Either will plug into the port shown at center above, which is standard on all Macs, but optional on most PCs. To add FireWire ports to your desktop PC, consider **Belkin's FireWire 3-Port PCI Card** (\$28 through Belkin Direct). Laptop PCs can use PC Card adapters, instead.

Griffin also makes the **Dock800** cable (\$19.99), which connects to the "FireWire 800" port shown at right above - only found on higher-end Mac computers such as PowerBooks and Power Macs. You won't see any improvement over the Dock400's transfer speed, but you'll make better use of that oft-unused port.

It's easy to connect the cable to the bottom of any iPod, but many people prefer to mount their iPods upright to keep them from scuffing or scratching on a flat surface. Your options are numerous - clockwise from upper right, Apple's official **Docks** (\$39) connect to your computer, your stereo system, or even a television in the case of the full-sized iPod version. Most of Altec Lansing's inMotion series (**iMmini** depicted, \$129) speakers also connect to and sync with your computer. **Pacific Rim Technologies**, **Belkin**, and **DLO** make different types of iPod shuffle docks (plain, 4-port USB hub, and flexible gooseneck, respectively), ranging in price from \$15 to \$30, while Thought Out offers decorative metal Ped stands in various sizes. **Ped2** (shown, \$39.99) can be adjusted to hold any iPod or iPod mini with or without a protective case, a novel feature.



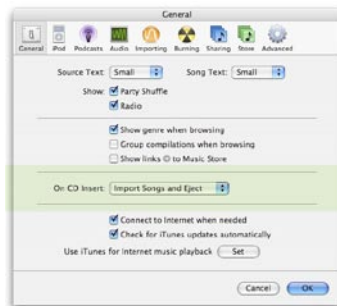
3

Filling Your iPod. Every iPod arrives empty - it's up to you to fill it with whatever suits your fancy. From audio to photos to books and data, we look at all the best ways to load your iPod with goodness.

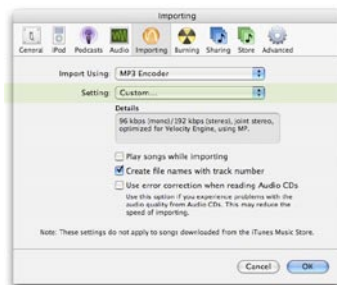
Music

Rip CDs yourself. Have someone rip CDs for you. Pay for iTunes music downloads. Or download music for free. Here are your best options.

Though it's time-consuming, iTunes makes it mostly easy to convert your CDs into iPod-friendly music files. These steps will save you time, improve quality, and prevent you from re-ripping CDs in the future.

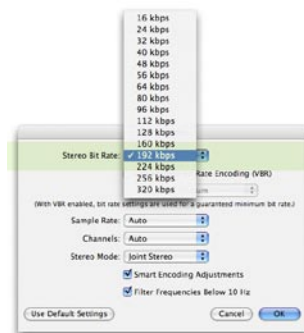


In iTunes **Preferences**, under the **General** Tab, go to **On CD Insert** and choose "Import Songs and Eject." Your PC will rip CDs, eject, and rip again.



Then go to the **Importing** tab. Under **Import Using**, choose **MP3 Encoder** and a **Setting** of either "Higher Quality (192Kbps)" or "Custom."

Transfer Your CDs Yourself



Choosing "Custom" will open this window. Use a **Stereo Bit Rate** of 128 Kbps if you use Apple's ear buds, go higher (192Kbps) if you use \$100+ speakers or headphones.

Download from the iTunes Music Store

In the iTunes **Source List**, select **Music Store** and this window will open. You'll need to create an Apple account by signing in (upper right corner of the screen, under the Search box). Then you'll be able to buy tracks.



With over 500 million songs sold and 1.5 million now available, Apple's 99-cent-per-track shop is a large, safe place to buy virtually any music you want.



You can **Search** with the top right box, or browse by genres, featured artists and albums, top songs, or top albums. To buy music, use the **Buy Song** or **Buy Album** button. Very easy.

Live concerts from well-known (and less well-known) artists are legally available for free download online. If you want to find the music and learn how to make it work on your iPod, see ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/jambands-download-free-concerts-for-your-ipod/. A visit to etree.org will help you start.



Download Free Live & Studio Music



Our Free Music page (ilounge.com/index.php/freemusic/) offers a collection of links to places where you can legally download free tracks from major and indie bands.

Skaters get helmets.



iPods get these.



Bruises, bumps and scrapes may be a fact of life. But your iPod doesn't have to feel the pain. Check out our full range of sleek protective shells today. And play it safe.

contour

www.contourcase.com

Professional CD Ripping Services

Turning old CDs into iPod-ready MP3s is called **ripping**. And ripping is the only bad part of buying an iPod. With a fast CD drive, rips take 6-10 minutes per disc - that's 10-17 hours for 100 CDs, not including the time you'll spend organizing all of the songs.

If you have more than 100 CDs, it's definitely worth *something* to have all your ripping done for you - but how much? And can you really trust just anyone with your CD collection?

Picking a Trustworthy Ripper

You've built your CD collection from nothing into huge stacks of jewel cases, paying thousands of dollars for music you'd like to hear on your iPod. Do you really want to turn over your discs to a stranger who's working out of a college dorm room, using your collection to build his own master music collection? No. So we sought out six reputable CD rippers - **professional and trustworthy companies with centralized ripping facilities**. We looked for companies that **didn't use misleading advertising or other tricks to fool potential customers**, and **ones that were committed to protecting the rights of musicians**: none of the companies on our list were willing to rip copied CDs or CDRs.

How We Tested

We assembled a total of 600 CDs, sending **100 CDs to each of the six companies** as a test. **Each collection included some "bad" discs**: cracked, mixed data and audio, or seriously scuffed CDs, and we also tossed in some CD-Rs to see whether the companies would rip them, despite their statements to the contrary. We used 224Kbps encoding from each company, and rated only based on standard included services. We list most of their other key options in our table to the right.

The Process, Start to Finish

Each of the companies used FedEx or UPS to send us a well-padded box and spindle (or two) for our CDs, insured for between \$10 and \$15 per disc in case of any damage. Typically, the boxes are sent from and to the companies by ground transportation, which can take several days in each direction depending on your distance from the company. But several of the companies offer expedited shipping for a \$50-60 premium. Most of the companies provided status updates on our discs before shipping them back. At the end, **each company converted our CDs into two DVDs full of great MP3 files**, and **most included installation instructions**, too. **None of the companies ripped our bad discs**, but some wanted to charge for them anyway. Others offered refunds.

Which Differences Really Matter?

All of the companies delivered our CDs and DVDs, but differences emerged in **pricing, speed and frills**. One company was willing to rip music at 128kbps for \$78 including shipping, but **prices for our across-the-board 224kbps rate ranged from \$99-156 by company, including shipping**. The best turned discs around in **1-2 days**, some included iTunes- and color iPod-ready **album art**, \$20-25 **promo cards**, or other extras, while others charged high premiums for anything other than "standard" service. Most discs arrived without incident. Only one of our boxes was lost in shipping, which FedEx attributed to a bad shipping label from the sender. It arrived dead last.



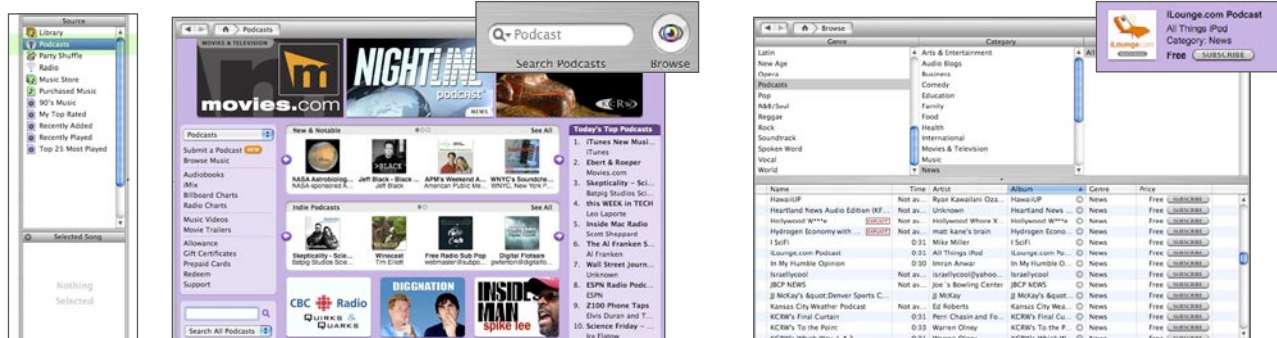
	dmp3 Music	Moondog Digital	MusicRip	Ready to Play	RipDigital	RipShark
Cost For 100 CDs & Shipping	\$140	\$78-126 on bitrate - \$100/224K	\$99	\$124	\$156	\$125
Cost For 500 CDs No Shipping	\$500	\$400 for 224Kbps (\$310-505, by bitrate)	\$450	\$605	\$499	\$395
Insurance & Shipper	\$15/CD FedEx Ground	\$12/CD FedEx Ground	\$10/CD FedEx Ground	\$10/CD UPS Ground	\$10/CD FedEx Ground	\$10/CD FedEx Ground
Process Time (w/o Shipping)	"A Week or Less" Actual: 4	"About 2 Days for Average Sized Orders" Actual: 2	"5 Business Days" Actual: 3*	"Typically 1-2 Days" Actual: 2	"Up to 7 days," but 3-5 typical. Actual: 5	"Generally 2 Business Days." Actual: 1
Location	Alameda, CA	Indianapolis, IN	Austin, TX	Palo Alto, CA	NYC, NY	Minneapolis, MN
Std. Bitrate	192Kbps CBR	224Kbps CBR	224Kbps CBR	192Kbps CBR	224Kbps CBR	192Kbps CBR
Included Services	+ MP3/WMA/AAC ripping + 128-320K bitrate + Personal contact to process order + DataClean fixes song tags for you + Text catalog	+ MP3 or WMA ripping + Pick any bitrate you want, charges vary but are competitive at each level.	No additional options. Each add-on is subject to an a la carte charge as noted below.	+ Loads iPod at no charge + MP3, WMA, AAC, OGG ripping + 224/320K ripping + DataGroom to fix ID3 tags	+ Other bitrates, no extra charge + \$20 iTunes card for each referral + Free NYC Drop-Off/Pick-Up + Album Art	+ Free 128, 192 or 224Kbps ripping + Free Twin Cities Pick-Up/Delivery + Free T-Shirt + Free Album Art
Paid Special Services	+ 0.20/CD add album art + \$50 iPod loading + \$50/Hr. iTunes/library help	+ 0.37/disc CD-ROMs instead of DVDs + Gift Certificates	+ 0.15-0.25/CD other formats/ bitrates +0.25/CD fix +\$25 load iPod + Sells HDs	+ Sells HDs + Sells iPods + Lossless Files on DVDs + Send your jewel cases, not spindles	+ Sells HDs + Sells iPods + 0.25/CD lossless ripping + 0.20/CD color catalog	+ Gift Certificates + Sells PCs + Sells HDs
Negatives	- Pricing isn't automated on site - No album art included	- No album art included or optional - No frills feel; simple instructions, and paper DVD envelopes	- No album art - No frills feel - Final box apparently sent with bad FedEx label	- Charges for damaged discs even if not converted - Limited updates	- Slower internal turnaround than others - Most expensive	- Limited instructions - Limited status updates, no tracking info
Overall Opinions	Lots of personal communication is required here, but you're cared for. Many a la carte services are offered. DVDs are delivered on the tops of your CD spindles. Pricey, but well-suited to serve needs of inexperienced PC users who want help and can afford to pay for it.	Leader on price was also second fastest, but very light on frills. DVDs are delivered in envelopes, and no album art is included with your files. But FedEx Ground shipping is included, and great price options, fast turnaround, and gift certificate program make this our top pick for the savvy B&W iPod user. Not as great for color iPod owners because of lack of album art option.	A no frills ripper with a low base price adds charges for any option. DVDs are delivered on top of CD spindle with very few instructions. Good e-mail updates, yet (*) mislabeled box was very last to arrive.	A good, careful compromise. DVDs arrived in a double-sided jewel case with album art, which was good for the price, as well as data on the converted files and a detailed printed installation guide. Pricing not as aggressive for large-quantity users, but good for most color iPod owners.	From boxes to manuals, tops in professional looks, but not fast or cheap. DVDs arrived in a DVD case with PC and Mac installers. Great tracking info, even tried to fix our bad discs. Album art was also included. A high-class pick for the well-off.	Whether you have large or small volumes of CDs to rip, you'll find RipShark to be highly competent with good pricing and great speed. Included album art and a T-shirt but not a case for ripped, spindled DVDs. Our best pick for color iPods.
iLounge Rating	B- Limited Recommendation	A- Highly Recommended	C+	B+ Recommended	B Recommended	A- Highly Recommended

Podcasts

Download 3,000+ free talk radio-style news, opinion, comedy and educational audio broadcasts - or make one yourself.

Download with iTunes

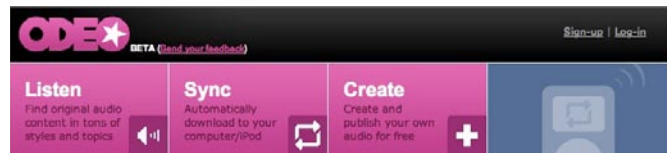
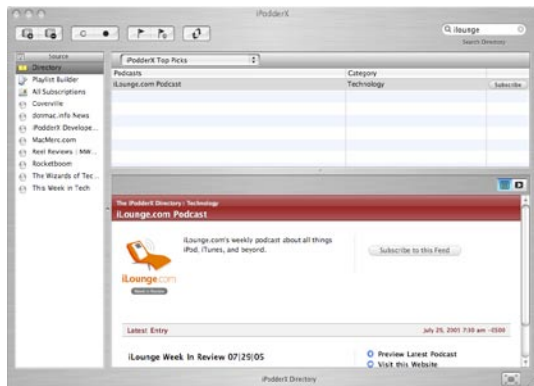
Free radio-style content for your iPod? Yes. More than 3,000 people now produce free "podcasts," including pioneers such as TechTV's Leo Laporte and MTV's Adam Curry, recently joined by Ted Koppel, Al Franken, and movie mavens Ebert & Roeper. Podcasts are like free subscription radio; audio that's ready whenever you are.



Now you can download podcasts with **iTunes 4.9**. Locate **Podcasts** on the **Source** list off to the left of the iTunes window. Click on it and a pink screen full of popular podcasts will appear. You can browse the **Directory** (below) by clicking **Browse Music** at top left under the banners, use the **Categories** list on the bottom left (scroll down), or search by phrase using the top right **Search** box - searching yields detailed pink info pages. Click on **Subscribe** to the right of any entry to download it.

Download with Odeo or iPodderX

There are other options. **iPodderX** (ipodderx.com) for Macs (and soon, PCs) can turn text into audio podcasts, download files that iTunes won't, including Bittorrent podcasts and non-audio files, and use keywords to filter downloads. **Odeo** (odeo.com) aims to make it easier than iTunes to find and create Podcasts, but hasn't opened its creation pages yet.



Create Your Own Podcast

your audio for free; have iTunes convert your file into a small MP3, then put it on a web server and use iTunes' **Submit a Podcast** button to tell people where to get it. For more details, check out the Beginners' Guide online.



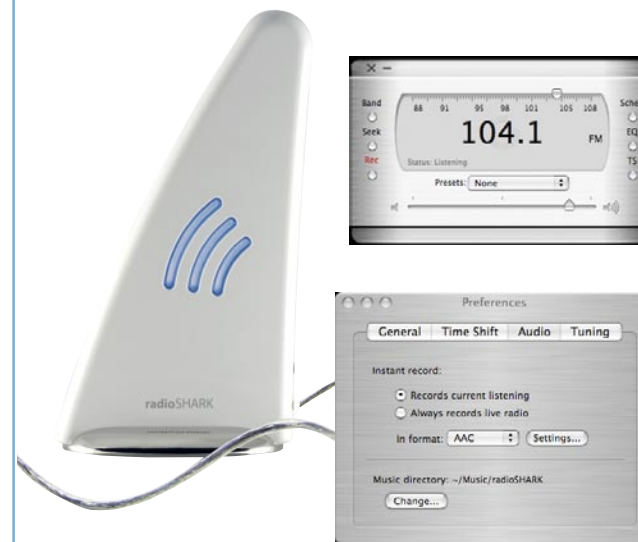
The iLounge web site offers a complete **Beginners' Guide to Podcast Creation** (ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/beginners-guide-to-podcast-creation/), but the process can be summed up this way: buy a USB headset like **Logitech's 350** (\$49.99, left); connect the headset to your PC or Mac; use **Audacity** (audacity.com) to record and save



Radio

Thanks to web sites, inexpensive hardware, and new software, it's now easy to transfer modern, classic, and Internet radio to your iPod.

Record FM Radio: RadioSHARK



Obsessive radio fans have traded taped recordings of their favorite shows for years. Today, **Griffin Technology's RadioSHARK** (\$69.99, iLounge rating: A-) makes it far easier than ever before to record your favorite radio show - and listen to it on your iPod or computer, whenever you want. The white and chrome fin serves as a large FM/AM antenna, and is equipped with lights that glow blue for normal reception and red when you're recording. Mount it on a table where you get good indoor reception, and coil the included USB extension cable to further improve signal strength.

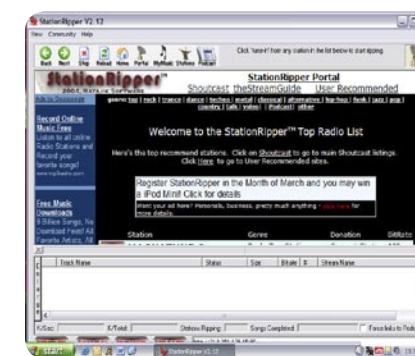
Griffin's included software gives you a complete digital tuner with a ten-band equalizer and time-shifting capabilities: activate it to gain TiVo-style pausing and rewinding of live broadcasts. A separate recording window lets you schedule times for radio programs to automatically save on your hard drive, and preferences (bottom left) let you pick the format and quality of recordings. Tracks can automatically appear in iTunes for iPod syncing in a playlist, too.

Download "Old-Time Radio" Shows

If contemporary radio isn't your thing, you're still in luck: recorded programs from the "Golden Age" of radio are now available for free download. Prior to appearing in movies and TV shows, famous programs such as Abbott & Costello, Batman, Buck Rogers, Burns and Allen, Dragnet, Flash Gordon and Sherlock Holmes riveted families in front of radios. Now sites like **Old-Time Radio Shows** (related-pages.com/oldtimeradio/) and **Radio Lovers** (radiolovers.com/) can help you hear the shows for yourself. Right-clicking on files and choosing **Save Target As** is all you'll need to do. For more information, see our **Old-Time Radio Guide** (ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/free-old-time-radio-otr-for-your-ipod/).



Record Internet Radio: StationRipper & iFill



Don't care for FM radio? Don't need old-time radio? Then maybe Internet Radio's a better fit. Nearly 10,000 stations now broadcast free radio online, and two good programs can record the shows as iPod-ready files. **Ratajik Software's StationRipper** for PCs (\$14.99, iLounge rating: A, at stationripper.com) has continued to improve since we looked at it in our last Buyers' Guide, and **Griffin** has released a beta version of **iFill** (\$19.99, at griffintechology.com), which does the same thing for Macs, but with greater copyright protection. A PC version is coming.



Photos & Art

Color iPods can display digital photographs and art, while older iPods can store, but not display photos.

iTunes Transfers Photos to Color iPods

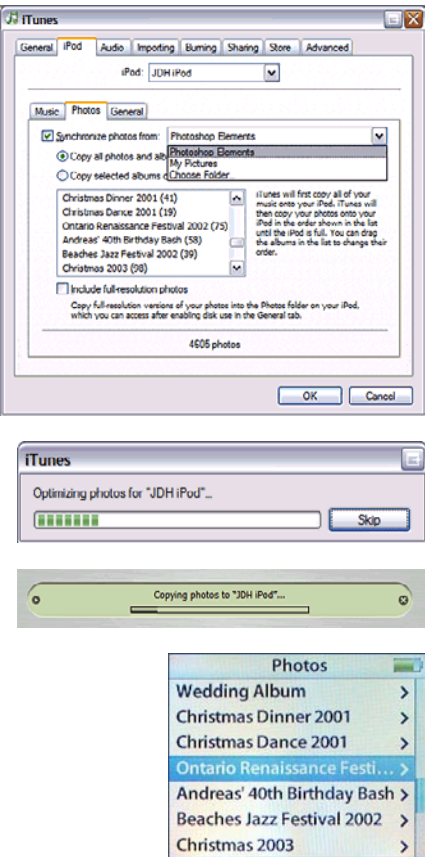
If you've ever wanted to carry tons of digital pictures in your pocket, you've probably already purchased a color-screened iPod - all of them include photo display abilities. But there's a catch: you'll almost always need to use **Apple's iTunes** software to transfer photos to the iPod if you want to be able to view them.

As of today, iTunes continues to hide photo importing in its **Preferences menu**, requiring you to click first on the **iPod Tab** and then the **Photos Tab** beneath it. You're then presented with options, starting with "Synchronize photos from:", which lets you tell iTunes where to find your photos.

The easiest step on a Windows PC is to select your **My Pictures** folder, and on a Mac, the **Pictures** folder. Any photos you drop into those folders will then be transferred to the iPod. But you can also use **Choose Folder** to select any other folder where your photos are already located, or if you use photo library programs such as **Adobe's Photoshop Elements** (\$79.99-\$89.99, PC/Mac) or **Apple's iPhoto** (\$79 as part of iLife, Mac only), you can select one of them by name. iTunes will let you see all of the individual photo albums you've created, and you can choose either to **Copy all photos and albums**, or **Copy selected albums only**.

There's one last option: if you want your iPod to store printer-quality versions of your pictures, click the **Include full-resolution photos** checkbox. Then you'll be able to connect your iPod to any computer and make good prints. But leaving it blank will save space on your iPod, and you'll still be able to see all of your pictures - you just won't want to print them, because they'll look grainy and coarse.

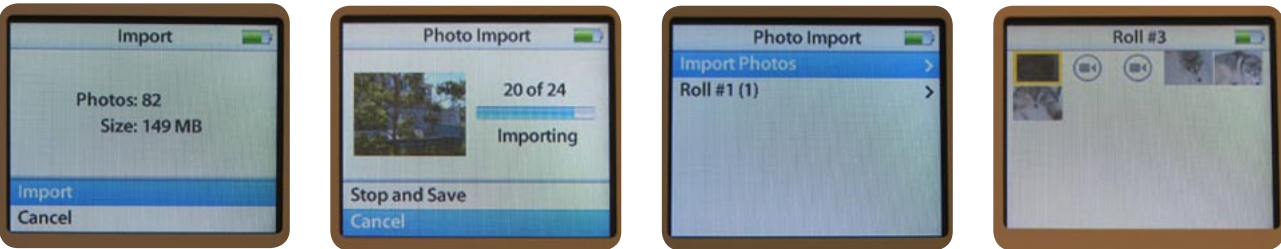
Clicking on **OK** will begin an optimization and copying process that may take some time. When it's done, you'll find the photos in your iPod's Photos menu.



Transferring Directly from Your Camera

Outdoor photographers might not want to lug around iTunes-equipped PCs just to process pictures. Thankfully, Apple and Belkin both sell iPod add-ons (see Section 6) that let cameras or memory card readers transfer photos without using iTunes.

When you connect **Apple's iPod Camera Connector** or **Belkin's Media Reader** to a color-screened iPod, an **Import screen** will appear (bottom left), counting photos and their total storage needs. **Pressing the iPod's center Action button** imports them, and you'll see each image as it's processed. Then a list of each imported "roll" of pictures will appear on the iPod, and you can **browse the shots individually**, except for movies or RAW images. Photos can be found as rolls in the iPod's DCIM folder, and copied off of the iPod by dragging and dropping from Windows or OS X.



Whether you're doing it for viewing in iTunes or for your color-screened iPod, it's easy to add album artwork to your songs. Just drag and drop any picture from your computer into the square box that reads **Drag Album Art Here**. (Look at the bottom left of your iTunes window under the **Source** list. If nothing's there, use the fourth button from the left to open it.

Songs downloaded from the iTunes Music Store come with art already, so this lets you add art for CD-ripped songs. **You can even add multiple pictures** and scroll through them with the arrows right above the picture. iPods will only display 1 image, scaling down the iTunes original art to a 140x140 resolution.



Adding Other People's Pictures

So you're not a photographer, don't own a digital camera, or just want something different for your iPod's color screen.

Join the club. There are now photo packs designed specifically for iPod owners - the most famous of which, **iBod**, was released by **Playboy Magazine** last year only to be mysteriously pulled from the company's web site.

But more wholesome content is available. **Earth Videoworks' iCandy** (\$14.95, earthvideoworks.com) is a CD-ROM that runs on any PC or Macintosh, installing 42 different photo galleries onto your color-screened iPod. The collection includes 1200 pictures ranging from artwork to sunsets, forests, coastlines, mountains and other nature photography. There are also hundreds of kaleidoscope images like the ones shown here.

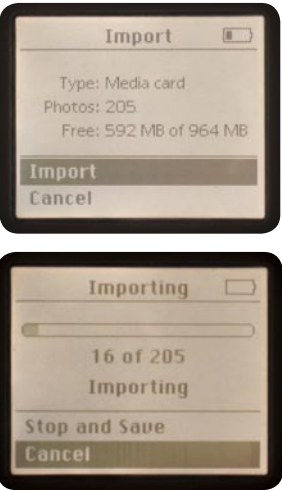
Want to add pictures you find online? Just save the images in a folder on your computer, and tell iTunes where to find it using the Transferring Using iTunes instructions on the left page.



Storing Digital Photos on a Non-Color iPod

In late 2003, **Apple and Belkin** introduced the first iPod accessory capable of moving pictures from a digital camera to an iPod - the **Media Reader** (see Section 6). Any camera's memory card could be inserted into the Media Reader, which plugged into the iPod and brought up the **Import** screen (top left) - a one-click transfer option, which slowly indicated progress (below). Subsequently, you could erase the card after the transfer was complete. These screens have been updated and improved for color-screened iPods, but older black-and-white models still can use today's Media Reader accessory.

Belkin later introduced another option, **Digital Camera Link** (\$39.99, at right), which connects the iPod to many popular digital cameras. You'll need to use the Link and the USB cable that comes with your camera, then press a white button on the Link's face. No other input is needed, and the transfer takes place. Unfortunately, the Link consumes power from your iPod, its own batteries, and your camera. We'd recommend the Reader instead.



Travel Goodies

Add directions, translation software, and other traveler-friendly features to your iPod.



Color iPod Tours and Maps

Like many great ideas in need of further exploitation, **PodGuides** (podguides.net) could be a killer app for color iPods, but for one thing. A PodGuide is a free, 20-minute long combination of a voice-narrated city tour with on-screen photographs. The PodGuides are downloaded as podcasts through the iTunes Music Store, and meant to be accompanied by a numbered map (in PDF format) that you download and print out before embarking on your tour.



Here's the one piece of bad news: there are only four guides available right now: one for Opal Coast, France; one each for Ghent and Brussels, Belgium; and one for Sibton Park, Kent, England. But the site gives away PodGuide Generator, a PC, Mac, or Linux program so that you can make your own PodGuides. We really hope to see this great concept grow.

Then there's **iPodsubwaymaps.com**, a new site with iPod-ready maps of famous subways. Users have contributed seven so far, but we'd expect to see many more.

Translation Software



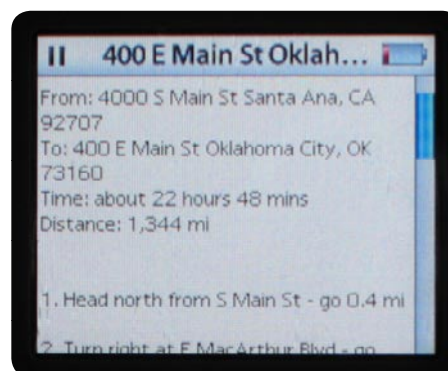
One of the least-touted features of the iPod is perfectly suited to language translation programs: using the built-in Notes feature (found under Extras), you can display text files that are linked to audio files. Smart companies now sell iPod-ready Notes pages with text in two languages - English or French phrases, plus foreign-language translations - and audio files with correct pronunciation.

Talking Panda's iLingo (\$14.95/language, \$49.95 for four-language pack, xtrememac.com) is offered in twelve different languages - eight from English (Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese Chinese, plus French, German, Italian and Spanish) and four from French (English, German, Italian and Spanish). Each pack contains over 450 different translated phrases, intelligently organized in menus that are ready to use wherever you are. iLingo works on all iPods that have been sold for the last two years except the shuffle.

Audio Tours and Driving Directions

Once locked inside little devices you had to rent at art galleries, audio tours are becoming increasingly popular as iPod downloads. **Slate Magazine** offers a tour of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art's Modern Art Gallery (slate.msn.com/podcast/id/2123157), while the **Orange County Museum of Art** (ocma.net) in Southern California is amongst museums now offering free audio tour MP3s of its own exhibits. **Soundwalk** (soundwalk.com) sells \$12 audio tours - mostly of New York City, but also Paris, France and Varanasi, India - while **AudioTreks** (audiotreks.com) sells \$14 tours of five major U.S. cities and two in the U.K.

Need something more specific to your current location? **Mibasoft's PodQuest** for the Mac (\$9.95, mibasoft.com) downloads driving directions from 13 map sites. You won't get maps - just step-by-step driving directions, a time estimate, and a distance estimate (right), which can be viewed on any iPod with a screen. **Verstige's iDirectionz** (verstige.com/iDirectionz/) is similar, but for PCs.



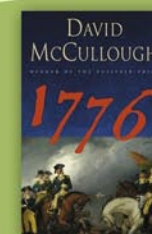
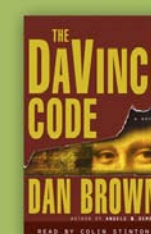
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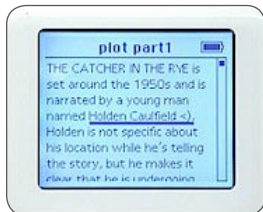
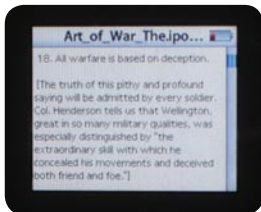
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Books

Now you can enjoy three types of books on an iPod: text, comics, and audio-format books can be added in a flash, with low (or no) price tags.

eBooks, Cookbooks & More



Eleven-thousand free books for your iPod? That's right. The eBook craze from several years ago failed to popularize dedicated electronic eBook readers - once anticipated to replace real books - but it did create a tremendous wealth of electronic books just waiting for readers. **Manybooks.net** currently offers 11,156 free downloads, including Sun Tzu's The Art of War, Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, ten CIA World Factbooks, and much more, all in Notes format. You'll need to enable your iPod's Disk Mode (see Personal Data & Files a few pages up), download a book, and then just drop its folder into your iPod's Notes folder using the Windows Explorer or the Macintosh Finder.

There are other books available online, too. **iPrepPress** (ipreppress.com) offers free downloads of key U.S. laws and card game rules - Texas Hold 'Em, Blackjack, Bridge, and Double Deck Pinochle. The company also sells **SparkNotes Study Guides** to popular books for \$4.95 each, and plans iPod-ready test prep guides as well.

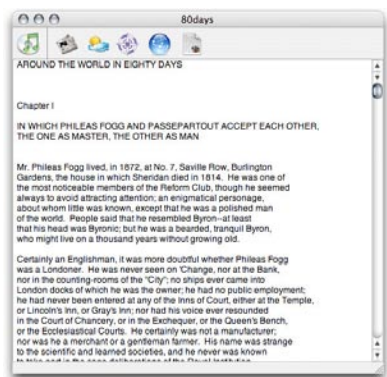
Celebrity chef **Emeril Lagasse** has released a collection of free iPod-ready books at emerils.com/fun/stuff4ipod_downloads.html - the **Recipes2Go** series offers 1,000 recipes, while **Meals2Go** has weekly menu suggestions provided by the site. Bam, indeed.

Comic Books Designed for Color iPods

We never thought it would happen, but **Clickwheel** (\$11.95, clickwheel.net) has done it: now you can download digital comics to color-screened iPods, and subscribe to RSS feeds so that new episodes download automatically. There are currently nine comics available directly from Clickwheel's site, including the sassy girls' comic Penny and Aggie, the snarky college comic Acids and Basics, and more abstract amusements like Lama, Ping Pong and Musicaltoons. A great idea in need of even more support.



Download Audio Books and Convert Web Pages or Text to Audio



We were surprised to discover how much we liked audiobooks: listening is easier than reading, and hearing a great actor or the original author read a book is more compelling than seeing the words in print. **Audible** (audible.com) offers individual audiobooks at prices comparable to their print versions, and monthly subscriptions (\$14.95-21.95) that entitle you to any one or two books each month. **Apple** also sells audiobooks through the iTunes Music Store - sometimes cheaper - but you'll do better with an Audible subscription overall.

Want to create your own audio files? **iSpeak It** for the Mac from **Zapptek** (\$14.95, zapptek.com) can load documents, web pages, driving directions, weather, news headlines, or other RSS feeds, then convert the text into MP3 or AAC files. The Mac's built-in voices are OK. **Zero2000's 2nd Speech Center** for Windows (zero2000.com, \$39.95) can turn e-mails, text files and web pages into MP3 or WAV format files, speaking in your choice of free or paid voices that can actually sound quite good - especially **AT&T's Natural Voices** (\$30-35).

Calendars & Contacts

Your friends, colleagues, and key dates, organized.

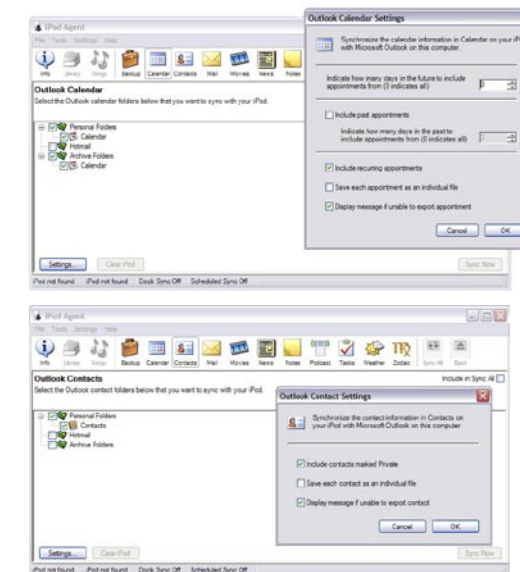
Importing Your Calendars and Contacts from a PC

Years ago, Apple added a limited collection of PDA-like features to the iPod - limited being the operative word for **Notes**, **Calendar**, and **Contacts**. Unlike PDAs, which have keyboards and writing styluses, iPods' controls can't easily be used for text input, so you can look at, but not edit whatever you store on the devices. And you'll need to synchronize (or "sync") data from separate calendar and address programs to do it.

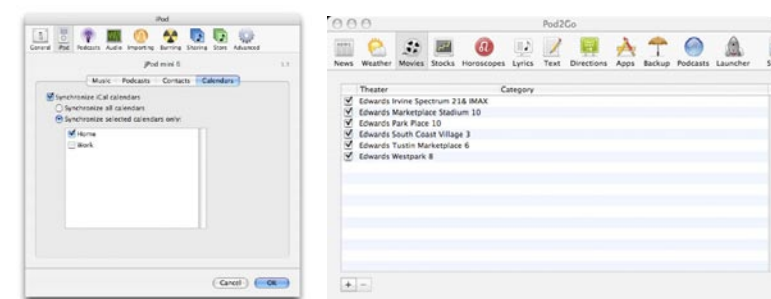
For some reason, support for these features has never been a high priority for Apple. In mid-May, the company took the unusual step of adding automatic Calendar and Contacts sync support to iTunes 4.8 for Mac users, but left it out of the PC version. Windows users generally still need to rely on third-party programs to make use of these features.

One of our favorite Windows sync programs is **iPodSoft's iPod Agent** (\$15, ipodsoft.com/index.php?software/ipodagent), which makes maximum use of an iPod's display features. After you select the types of content you want to sync to your iPod (bottom left), buttons at the top of its main window let you choose to bring over your Microsoft Outlook Calendar, Contacts, Email, Notes, and Tasks, plus turn web-based weather forecasts, RSS newsfeeds, movie listings and horoscopes into iPod-viewable text files. Simple settings windows let you choose the data to transfer or ignore, including just how many days of historical and future-looking calendar information you need to keep in your pocket.

Once synced, your calendars and contacts will look as they do on the screens to the far right - good enough to reference on the go. Both types of information look better on color-screened iPods, which display more text on screen than both black-and-white iPods and iPod minis.



Sync Calendars and Contacts from Macs



The Calendar and Contacts sync process is easiest for Macintosh users, particularly those using Apple's Mac OS X Tiger (10.4) operating system. Under the **iPod Tab** at the top of the **Preferences** window (far left), **iTunes** now includes **Contacts** and **Calendars Tabs** to import data from Address Book and iCal. Users of non-Tiger Macs can use **Apple's** older free application **iSync**, instead. Those with Microsoft Entourage data can use **ZappTek's iPodIt** (\$14.95, zapptek.com) for syncing, while **Kainjow's Pod2Go** (\$12, kainjow.com, closer left) offers features like iPod Agent above.

Games

Every iPod except the shuffle now comes with games, but you can add even more, including updated takes on classic text adventures.

Apple's Current Four iPod Pack-Ins

The iPod's first game wasn't even obvious to its owners: a version of the classic Atari game Breakout (originally worked on by a young, later-to-be Apple CEO Steve Jobs) was hidden in a menu. That game later became **Brick**, one of four games found on every screened iPod, joined by the Missile Command-like **Parachute**, the card game **Solitaire**, and finally the trivia game **Music Quiz**, where you identify a song snippet from five choices on full-sized iPods, four on the smaller-screened iPod mini.

Updated color versions of these games were not especially dramatic improvements. Brick added colors, but reduced the number of bricks per line from 12 to 9. Solitaire added the ability to endlessly scroll in whatever direction you were moving, rather than stopping at one edge of the screen. Music Quiz moved the location of its countdown timer, and Parachute's graphics became more detailed. Needless to say, there are good reasons that people want more - and better - iPod games.



Believe it or not, iLounge's editors were suckers for text adventures back in the day - both as Choose Your Own Adventures books, and early computer games like Zork and the Scott Adams Adventures. Now modern versions of these classic, simple games have been brought to the iPod, with simple menu choices that lead you through stories with multiple paths.

Text Adventures & Trivia

Malinche Entertainment (malinche.net) is one of a few companies that are selling iPod games, with horror story **The First Mile**, murder mystery **Greystone**, and fantasy adventure **Pentari: First Light** going for \$9.95 a piece. But **iPodSoft** (ipodsoft.com) is giving away a program called **Story Creator** that lets PC or Mac owners make the games for free, and has three full pages of user-created free iStories games - some good, many bad. (You'll need Story Creator to upload them to your iPod.) Similarly, the site **iPodArcade.com** offers adventures and trivia titles for free download.



Games With Graphics: iPodLinux.org and iPodArcade.com



Doom (above), Blue Cube (below), iPobble (above), Pong (below)

By modern standards, the most exciting games yet developed for the iPod aren't Apple's titles or text adventures, but rather graphical games ported by Linux fans. After installing a program called **Podzilla** on your 1G, 2G, 3G or original mini iPod, you'll be able to switch back and forth between standard iPod music functionality and a collection of Linux programs - including a bunch of well-known games. (Newer iPods aren't yet officially supported, though some run Linux just fine.)

The site **iPodLinux.org** offers Podzilla and a large collection of games, most notably a port of Doom that looks OK on color iPods, Lights (Lights Out), PodDraw (Etch-a-Sketch), Snake, and TuxChess, amongst others, plus tantalizing projects to re-create classic arcade games such as Atari's Tempest and Namco's Pac-Man. The screenshots here come from their site. A less techie site called **iPodArcade.com** offers a subset of the iPodLinux files such as Blue Cube (Tetris), Steroids (Asteroids), Pong, Othello, and Mines, plus installation instructions.

iPodMODS

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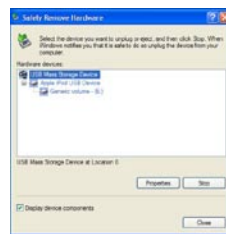
RADTECH™

Personal Data & Files

iPods can hold complete PC backups and transport data.

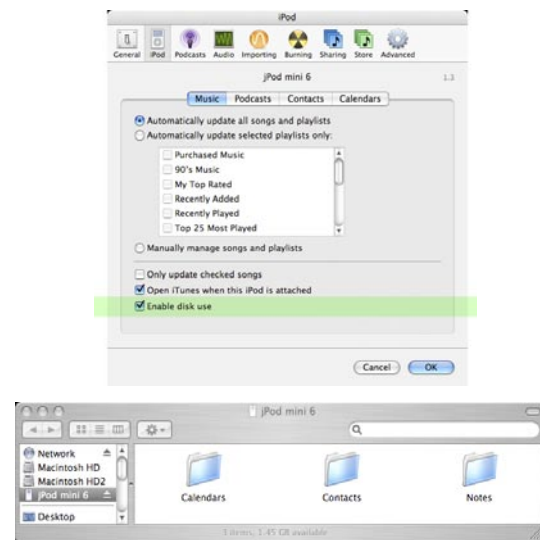
Using your iPod as a hard disk is pretty easy: connect it to your computer, then open iTunes and its **Preferences** menu. Select the **iPod Tab**, and the **Music Tab** under it (picture at top right).

If you want to use **automatic updating** for your iPod, you need to check the **Enable disk use** box. Once this is done, hit **OK**, and your iPod's ready to go. Just drag files to the iPod's icon on your desktop, or in Windows' Explorer or the Mac OS X Finder. If you think you'll be using the hard disk features often, uncheck **Open iTunes when this iPod is attached**. This way, iTunes won't load every time you want to connect the iPod and copy files.



If you've set your iPod to **manually manage songs and playlists**, it is already set to work as a hard disk, and you don't need to do anything else. Just click **OK**, and the iPod's icon will appear on your Windows or Mac desktop (lower right). But be careful to **eject** your iPod when you're finished (left, from the System Tray in Windows); you could lose the files you've copied.

Use Your iPod as a Hard Disk



Using the iPod shuffle as a Hard Disk



Apart from their smaller storage capacities, there are two big differences between the Disk Modes of the iPod shuffle and other iPods. Open up the **iPod Tab** under iTunes **Preferences** and choose **Enable disk use**. You'll see a slider representing 100% of the shuffle's total capacity - 120 or 240 songs on the left, 512MB or 1GB on the right. You'll need to tell the shuffle in advance how much space to reserve for data, though you can change your mind later. It works just like any other drive connected to your computer.

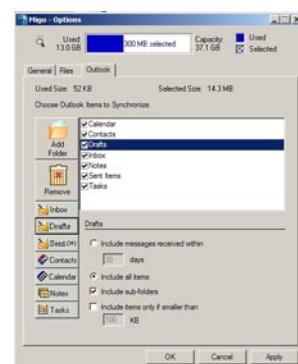
Secondly, unlike other iPods, the shuffle is formatted so both PCs and Macs can read it. This makes it an especially useful courier Pod - it doesn't require a cable for connection, and can plug into any computer with a USB port.

Securing Your Personal Data

While it's easy to store files on the iPod, it's not as easy to store them securely. If your Pod is lost or stolen, its contents will be open for all to see. That's why **Pariahware** came up with **PodSecret** (\$29.95, pariahware.com), a PC or Mac program that stores data - computer files or personal information such as credit card, traveler's check or passport numbers - in an encrypted format that only you will be able to read. Separately, **Maki Enterprise's PodSmith** (\$20, makienterprise.com, right) is a Mac-only program that turns your iPod into a key that unlocks your Mac or files. Just don't lose it!



Carrying Your PC on Your iPod



If carrying your contacts around isn't enough, try **PowerHouse Technologies' Migo Personal** (\$59.95, 4migo.com, iLounge rating: B+), which lets you carry a clone of your home PC's hard drive anywhere you go. It lets you access your Outlook e-mail, Internet Explorer favorites, desktop folder and other files on any connected PC - a cool trick.

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3rd Gen. 15gb to 40gb	\$189
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4

Enjoying Your iPod Everywhere. We've reviewed over 150 new add-ons since our last Guide, and the next six pages look at the best of them for each of three places you use your iPod, starting **at home**.

Kensington Stereo Dock for iPod



A-

If you're not using headphones with your iPod, you'll need to connect it to external speakers. Assuming you don't want a dedicated iPod speaker box, **Kensington's Stereo Dock** (\$89.99, available now for \$50 and up) is an almost ideal way to make the connection to an existing stereo. It starts with a white and chrome dock that fits any Dock Connector-equipped iPod or mini, and includes a wall power adapter, and an audio output cable to your speakers. Drop your iPod in and it'll recharge on the dock while outputting clean music - almost identical to Apple's official Dock, but with a major added bonus: volume control. Every Stereo Dock

includes a usable, backlit remote control that lets you control the iPod's volume, tracks, and play/pause status. No other docking solution available today lets you pull audio from the iPod's higher-quality bottom port and also control its volume, a major plus of this design.

The only major issue: the remote's infrared-based, and works well only from 20 or fewer feet away. There are better remote controls (see next page for one that reaches over 100 feet) and cheaper docks, but they won't provide as tightly integrated of a solution as this one. It's a top-recommended option for homes.

Altec inMotion iM7

All-in-one iPod stereo speaker design reached all new heights with **Altec Lansing's recent inMotion iM7** (\$249.00) - a tube-shaped audio solution with left and right speakers, plus a subwoofer that runs through its center. While iM7 is far from the most portable solution developed by Altec - 16.75" long and 6.5" in diameter, weighing 10 pounds - it's easy enough to carry outdoors thanks to an integrated handle, and runs off of wall power or eight D-cell batteries. An included infrared remote lets you change tracks and volume levels from afar. Well, not too

far. The remote only operates reliably from 10 feet, the single Achilles Heel of an otherwise impressive design.

Unlike smaller inMotions, iM7 lets you crank up the volume to serious levels without significant distortion, and even gives you control over treble and bass response. Two drivers per channel plus the subwoofer speaker make iM7 sound good indoors or outdoors; we were impressed by the unit's overall sound quality, and found it a solid match for Bose's more expensive and less portable SoundDock (iLounge

rating: B+) on performance. Video outputs on the rear even let you use it to provide audio for iPod photo slideshows.

It's not a travel speaker, but for home or dorm, iM7 scores big points.



A-



B+

Klipsch iFi

Thankfully, there are now iPod speakers for different-sized pocketbooks and tastes. **Klipsch's new iFi** (\$399.99) is a prime example: instead of using the white and chrome components found in so

many iPod accessories, Klipsch made a system that could fit visually into a living room: two sophisticated, silver

satellite speakers with a huge matching subwoofer, powered iPod dock, and RF-based remote control. Together, the components weigh 43 pounds, and set a new reference audio quality standard for a dedicated iPod speaker system - particularly at high volume levels. But under typical low- to mid-volume listening conditions, average people mightn't care about the differences, and may appreciate the substantial price and size savings of existing alternatives. The iFi's best-suited to people looking for sheer power and willing to pay what it takes to get it - hi-fi for the frat guy.

ABT iJet/Targus RemoteTunes

Trying to choose the best remote control for your iPod? None is as powerful as **ABT's iJet** (\$59.99), now also sold by **Targus** under the **RemoteTunes** name for \$49.99. Both products come with a small handheld remote, a detachable belt clip, an iPod-mounted receiver, and a stereo audio cable to connect your iPod to an existing audio system. The cheaper Targus product amazingly also includes a nice clear acrylic iPod stand, with a groove in the back to hold the remote when not in use. ABT sells a different stand (shown above) separately.



A-

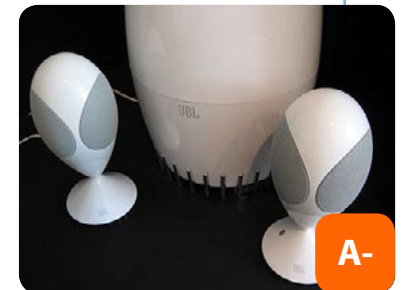
On raw transmitting distance, both units are very impressive. They claim to be able to communicate with an iPod from a distance of up to 150 feet away without obstructions, and came quite close in our testing - 110 feet without problems, degrading beyond that. To put that in perspective, its best competitors (Griffin's AirClick, rated A-, and Engineered Audio's RemoteRemote 2, rated B+) are in the 50- to 60-foot range, roughly half that.

This isn't to say the iJet and RemoteTunes remotes are perfect. They're on the small side, with buttons - notably a miniature play/pause button - that aren't as easy to use as Griffin's, for example, and the functionality of the remotes is limited compared with TEN Technology's more fully functional but infrared, shorter-distance naviPro EX (iLounge rating: B+).

But these are minor nitpicks for a product that performs really well - enough that we wish it or something like it was included with every iPod speaker system we review.

JBL Encounter II 2.1

JBL loves aliens almost as much as it loves making great-sounding speaker systems - the **Encounter II** (\$149.95) is proof-positive of that. We really liked the system's clean, controllable sound even when the system sold for \$50 more, finding its rear-mounted bass and treble controls a major plus. As with JBL's other non-portable speakers, including our top-rated Creature II (iLounge rating: A), the Encounters use cables to let you separate the left and right audio as much or as little as you desire, and feature a sizable subwoofer that delivers better detailed bass than other models in its price range. But the bass isn't as heavy-handed or full as some may prefer.



A-

Its looks may or may not be to your liking. We were intrigued by the alien-eyed white and gray satellites, which can be positioned in a less patently creepy way, and more impressed by the spaceship-like subwoofer, which features chrome-plated feet and a smart rear panel of gray controls. Encounter's worth a visit to your local store, and if you like how the satellites look, you'll love how they sound for the dollar.

iHome iH5 Dockable Stereo Clock Radio

We're generally suspicious of accessories made by companies with no track record in the iPod market, but **iHome's new iH5 Clock Radio** (\$99.99) is one of the elite exceptions: not just good, but close to perfect. It's the first clock radio to debut with an integrated iPod dock, and can wake you up to the iPod's music or radio with a single built-in alarm. A remote is sold separately.

For the price, it would have been very easy for iHome to deliver something that looks better than it sounds. That's not the case: iH5's left and right sides house a very capable set of stereo speakers, comparing favorably overall to the \$100-180 portable solutions sold by Altec Lansing. iHome's speakers do better

at higher volumes than most Altecs, include audio in and out ports, and AM/FM radio tuning, a feature not found in any other iPod speaker save Tivoli's more expensive, clock-less iPAL (iLounge rating: B+). iHome's decision to include external FM and AM antennas bolsters iH5's radio tuning capabilities over some clock radios we've tested, though iPAL's incredible tuner (and huge telescoping metal antenna) offer an edge to serious radiophiles.

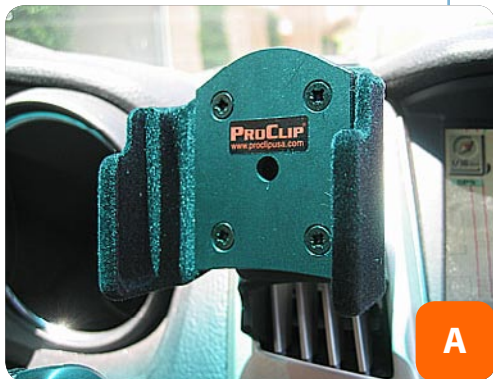
That's the one fair gripe about iH5: it's not a super-powered clock radio, lacking presets or multiple alarms, and offering more to iPod lovers than radio fanatics. But it's far better as a compromise solution than other current and future options we're presently aware of, and is very likely to make most listeners happy.



A-

In-Car Accessories. As our Buyers' Guides point out, car installations require three key ingredients: a car mount, a good audio connection to the stereo, and a charger. These are the best options that have appeared in recent days.

ProClip Padded Adjustable Mount



A

As car mounts go, **ProClip's Padded Adjustable Mount with Tilt Swivel** is at the very top of the hill - though it's also one of the most expensive. Sold as a two-piece set, one piece (\$29.95) is specifically for your car, holding snugly in an air vent or other location of your choosing. The other piece (\$39.95) is made to hold your iPod, and though ProClip makes less expensive mounts, this one is incredibly versatile.

Four screws can be loosened and tightened to fit essentially any full-sized iPod and case you can imagine, including all of the popular silicone cases, and many others. This is an optimal solution for people who

don't want to remove their cases every time they enter their cars. Or you can insert your iPod without a case if you desire, though if you're planning on doing that, you could consider one of ProClip's less expensive mounts.

The Padded Adjustable Mount can be turned 360 degrees or locked into place with a screw; it also pivots 15 degrees left, right, up or down. Along with its ability to mount in an easy to reach and view location, tailored to a specific year and make of car, it basically guarantees your satisfaction on first installation. We've seen them all, and iPod car mounts don't get better than this.

Nyko Universal Car Mount

If you're looking for a car mounting solution that's cheaper than a ProClip but still quite likely to work in your car, **Nyko's Universal Car Mount** (\$29.99) would be the first option we'd recommend. Unlike many cellphone mounts that are marketed as iPod-compatible, the Universal Car Mount uses spring-loaded white sizers and a clear plastic tray to firmly grab any thickness of iPod or

iPod mini, providing access to its bottom. Rotatable, rubber-padded metal rear clips and a plastic plate hold the Mount on your car's air vent; if you prefer, an included 3M adhesive pad can be used instead. Even in tricky test cars, we found that the Car Mount worked, and though we prefer the stability and looks of ProClip's pricier mounts overall, it's hard to go wrong with Nyko's solution.



A-

Kensington Digital FM Transmitter/Auto Charger



A-

For months, we've said this in every FM transmitter review we've published: use an FM transmitter only if you have no other iPod-to-stereo connection options, and don't expect the sound to compare in clarity or quality to any wired connection. But now there's an exception to the rule: **Kensington's Digital FM Transmitter/Auto Charger** (\$79.99, street price \$53 and up) delivers wireless audio quality that's as close as we've heard to using wires, and also recharges your iPod's battery at the same time.

The Transmitter requires your car's power adapter port to provide juice for itself and the

attached iPod, but uses the power to great advantage. When you tune in any open station on your FM radio, it's easy to hear clear, dynamic sound that "pops" by comparison with the flattened FM we've heard in earlier transmitters, quickly making and maintaining a good impression on your ears. What tiny bit of noise you'll hear is still better than most competitors. Tuning is easy with the backlit blue LCD screen and up/down tuning button, and you can easily store three presets, too.

Our only major gripe? Price - it's high. Shop around for this one; it's worth the effort.

NewerTech RoadTrip! 87.9FM

The phrase "bargain basement" generally is not meant in a positive way, but we have very good things to say about **NewerTech's** latest **RoadTrip!**, a product that's gone through major improvements over its various iterations. The 87.9FM version (\$14.99) is a bona-fide bargain, strongly broadcasting your iPod's tunes wirelessly to one specific - but most likely vacant - radio station. That station, 87.9FM, is all but unused throughout the United States, with empty stations in all but three cities: La Canada, California; Sun Valley, Nevada; and Brazos, Texas. (One reader has noted that areas with broadcasts on 87.7 may also experience signal degradation, but a money-back guarantee limits your risk, regardless.)

How does this RoadTrip! sound? Certifiably very good - a notch under Kensington's much more expensive Digital FM Transmitter and Auto Charger, but better than most of the FM transmitters that



B+

came before it. It uses your iPod's headphone jack - its only minus.

NewerTech also sells a version of this product called the **RoadTrip! Plus** (iLounge rating: B+), which is a bit more expensive at \$27.95, but also charges your iPod and pulls audio from its Dock Connector port rather than its headphone jack. Cord noise limited its otherwise great audio quality; if NewerTech fixes this issue, we'd call it a superior alternative to the RoadTrip! 87.9, and a solid rival to the best of the car transmitters we've looked at.

XtremeMac Audio Kits for iPod/iPod shuffle

Despite improvements, FM transmitters are always a second- or third-best solution: you'll get a cleaner iPod-to-car connection with wires that run as close to direct as possible from iPod into your speakers.

XtremeMac's Audio Kits for the iPod or iPod shuffle (\$49.99) provide virtually all the wires you might need for basic car or home connection needs. Each kit includes an car charger compatible with its respective iPod model, plus an array of audio accessories. If your car has a cassette tape deck, the new tape adapter from XtremeMac is up to par with the best we've tested from Sony; if you're lucky enough to have a line-in or aux-in jack in your car, there's an minijack-to-minijack cable to run from your iPod's headphone port to your car. There's also an audio splitter so you can share your iPod with another person, and a good stereo connection cable, too.

If your needs aren't as broad, buy parts separately; you may do better.

But if you need a kit, look first at one of these options.



B+



B+

Belkin TuneBase FM & DLO TransPod FM Versions 2

Since our last Buyers' Guide, these two 3-in-1 car chargers, mounts, and FM transmitters have both seen big improvements, such that versions on store shelves today are

noticeably better than the ones sold only six months ago. **Belkin's TuneBase FM** (\$79.99, above) uses a metal gooseneck to mount, charge, and broadcast tunes from any iPod mini. Current TuneBase FM units boast superior FM transmission quality and slightly better line-out audio quality than their predecessors, and have somewhat better stability thanks to a modestly shortened gooseneck. If you're an iPod mini owner - or, come September, an iPod shuffle owner with one of Belkin's Dock

Adapters, TuneBase FM is our favored 3-in-1 option, mostly because of the flexibility of the gooseneck and its slick styling.

DLO's updated TransPod FM 3-in-1 is compatible with full-sized and mini iPods. It now comes in three different colors - silver, black, and original white, each with the same large collection of mounting tools to improve the chances that you'll find some way to position it to your satisfaction in your car. Today's models include a superior extension arm that pivots for added flexibility, a major plus.



B+

Travel Accessories. These recent accessories are designed to follow you wherever you go, bolstering iPod run time, performing its audio, and more.

Compact Power Systems Cellboost & Griffin TuneJuice



B+

When you're far away from home, there are different ways to keep your iPod running - power outlets, expensive extended capacity battery packs, or something smaller and essentially disposable. Our Buyers' Guides have generally focused on rechargeable solutions that are pricey and large, but run for long times and don't cost anything to replenish. But the market is growing, and two companies are now selling some of the cheapest and simplest iPod charging options we've seen. While they won't compete on performance with other battery packs, they do compete well on price.

Compact Power Systems' Cellboost (\$9.99) is a disposable white battery that fully recharges most iPods one time, or partially

recharges them a couple of times. They do better as dead iPod rechargers or when used with live and partially charged iPods; trying to run a dead iPod off of one is tough. A cap keeps the Dock Connector safe on the road.

Griffin Technologies' TuneJuice (\$19.99) offers an inexpensive way to keep your iPod running off of any single disposable 9-Volt battery - something readily available wherever you might travel for roughly \$2. While TuneJuice adds only 4 hours to an older, discharged iPod's life, it adds a bit over 8 to a partially charged one - more than enough to keep you going until you're near an outlet, or another battery store. It's also very small and easy to carry around wherever you might be going.



B

Monster Cable iAirPlay Charger

If your iPod runs out of power in a plane, there's almost nothing you can do - unless, of course, you have one of the two in-air charging accessories that have been released to date. We looked at **BTI's Auto/Air Adapter** (iLounge rating: B+) in our last Buyers' Guide; now **Monster Cable** is offering the **iAirPlay Charger** (\$29.95), a similar two-piece cable that can be used to charge your iPod either in an airplane or in a car.

Three differences separate the add-ons: first, iAirPlay powers and charges an iPod, while BTI's cable offers power without charging - an advantage of

Monster's design. Second, iAirPlay is a bit more expensive, and third, it uses an oversized Dock Connector plug that isn't as compatible with iPod cases as BTI's highly compatible, standard-sized plug, both advantages of BTI's offering.

Since neither cable makes maximum use of the iPod's Dock Connector, permitting both power and audio-out, we wouldn't pick them as full-time car chargers. But if you're going to fly overseas - particularly if you're planning on using a 3G iPod or original model iPod mini- these can be invaluable travel companions.



B+



B

Incase Travel Kit

More than a year ago, Incase produced a black ballistic nylon travel case called the **iCase for Monster Cable**, a folio-style 3G iPod holder that was packaged with Monster's audio iSplitter and car charger accessories. Now **Incase** has remade the case in gray as the **Travel Kit** (\$69.95) for use with

3G, 4G, and mini iPods, dropping its partially tailored leather interior in favor of more versatile mesh pockets, but keeping its spacious, "carry all of your travel documents and accessories" interior. It's one of the largest iPod cases we've tested, and will suit some travelers' needs better than others.

Incase also replaced Monster's pack-ins with its own **Incase Charger** (iLounge rating: B), which includes an audio-out port and can be used in cars or indoors thanks to a folding wall plug. We liked Monster's iSplitter, but this works, too.

PodGear Shuffle Station



B

Truly portable speaker systems have two features: they can at least optionally run off of batteries, and are small enough to go wherever you go. **PodGear's Shuffle Station** (\$59.99) is one of two truly portable options marketed specifically for the iPod shuffle, a two-hinged, white fold-open system with speakers that separate from a desk-mounted base with recharging capability.

By comparison with less expensive, pocketable speaker options, Shuffle Station sounds good at typical volumes - much better in fact than **Ignitek's** more attractively and otherwise logical **iCheer** for the iPod shuffle (\$79.99, below). But it doesn't beat modestly pricier options such as JBL's On Tour (iLounge rating: A-) on audio quality. It's also awkward: your shuffle's upside-down on a metal audio pike, and a USB port on its rear is required for recharging.

But if you need the convenience of portable audio and recharging, Shuffle Station might be a good fit. It uses four AA batteries, so you really can take it anywhere. And if you own an iPod shuffle, you just might.



C+

Ultimate Ears super.fi 5 Pro Earphones

When **Ultimate Ears** defined itself as the leading maker of custom-fit, professional-grade earphones, it chose exclusivity over broad appeal: few could afford its outstanding sound. Super.fi is the result: a line of one-size-fits-all earphones at more affordable but still premium prices. Thus the company's first new offering, **super.fi 5 Pro** (\$249.99), is the sort of headphone package you want or receive as a gift.

It comes with all the trappings of a premium earpiece: a deluxe metal storage box, five sets of different ear molds, a leather pouch, and of course nice-looking, iPod-ready earbuds. The 5 Pros look as good as they sound, with a nice white, transparent, and gray design, and audio that's fairly balanced, skewing only a little over to bass to satisfy the masses.

On an absolute scale, we still like **Etymotic's ER-4** series (iLounge rating: A), which cost a little more and provide reference-grade sound detail, albeit in a less iPod-matching physical design. But for the dollar and given the appealing pack-ins, Ultimate Ears has a winner in the super.fi 5 Pros.



A-

But wait - there's more!

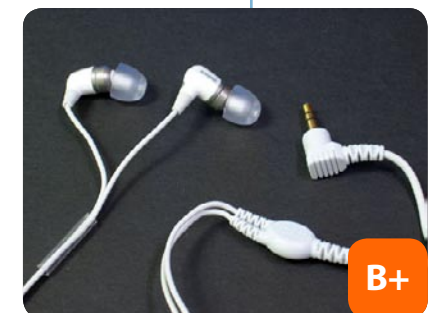
If you're looking for a wider variety of A-rated iPod accessories for your home, car, or travel needs, we recommend these two steps: start with our Report Card, several pages up, where you'll see over 500 iPods and accessories rated and organized by category. Then visit our reviews page online at ilounge.com/index.php/reviews/.

Shure E4c Earphones

How much do looks matter to you? If the answer's "a lot," you're going to love **Shure's E4c**, an earphone that fills the \$299 earphone hole between its older \$499 E5cs (iLounge rating: A-) and \$199 E3cs (iLounge rating: B), offering a good compromise on sound quality, customizability, comfort and looks.

With nine different types of rubber and foam earpieces, the E4cs are guaranteed to fit and isolate your ears well from outside sound. And

their physical design is superb - one of the nicest, if not the nicest we've ever seen for the iPod. But audio quality is the benchmark of a good headphone, and while the E4cs do a good job on detail and overall sound balance, they're not up to the top standards of the price range on those factors - Etymotic's ER-4 series remains stronger - and they're not a match for the super.fi 5 Pros (or many lower-end headphones) on bass.



B+

5

Customizing Your iPod. Looking for something more radical than an iPod case? Even on a budget, there are ways you can seriously change the look of your iPod, including colors, engraving, and more.

ColorWare



One of the most dramatic iPod changes you can make is offered by **ColorWare** (colorwarepc.com), masters of iPod color-shifting. Car-quality paint and precision screening enable the fronts of full-sized iPods to go from white and gray to your choice of 24 colors, while iPod minis can get the full front and back treatment.

The price? Only \$49 for any full-sized iPod in one color; a two-color combination is \$84. iPod minis can be single-colored for \$64, or double-colored for \$84. If you're looking to match your iPod to the color of your car, favorite handbag, or something else, the company does custom colors for an additional \$99 over those prices, and even sells pre-painted, brand new iPods. Key iPod accessories such as Apple's Dock, earbuds, and Griffin's iTrip can also paint-matched for between \$10-19.

iPodMods



iPodMods (ipodmods.com) is best known for its add-ins that can change any black and white iPod screen (\$35) to red, green, blue, or orange. If you ever wanted a red screen for your old U2 iPod, or a green screen that matches your green iPod mini, this is the way to do it. The company also sells replacement iPod (\$70-90) and mini shells (\$60) in various colors, including a bunch that Apple doesn't make for today's iPod minis.

Owners of third-generation iPods (the ones with the four separate buttons) have an even cooler option. For \$35, you can separately change the color of each of the iPod's backlit buttons to red, white, blue, green, yellow, or orange. Keep all four the same, or mix them up.

ETCHamac



While most companies focus on personalizing the fronts of iPods, **ETCHamac** (etchamac.com) focuses laser beams on their backs, etching your choice of artwork and text into any iPod or mini's metal casing. Images will appear in white or black on iPod minis, or black on full-sized iPods, with the option of a custom-made dual-layer sticker to add additional detail.

At a price of \$30 for text and \$40-50 for both text and art, you have a much wider and considerably bolder range of engraving options than Apple offers through its web site, and there's a \$5-10 discount off those prices if you buy your iPod directly through ETCHamac.

iGuy and iGuy for mini



Brilliant? Close. **Speck Products' iGuy** and his younger brother, **iGuy for mini** (\$34.95 each, iLounge rating: B+) might just be the Gumby toys of the iPod generation. Made from rubbery plastic, the white enclosures slip on any current model iPod or iPod mini, adding legs, flexible arms, and a noticeable rump. Your iPod's screen and back are protected by hard clear plastic parts that fit neatly inside iGuy's body, while the Click Wheel, headphone port, and Hold switch are exposed for easy access. When you need to recharge your iPod, the bottom half of iGuy pops open, and you use an iPod Dock in a way that looks just like iGuy is sitting on the throne. Classy? No. Funny? Yes.

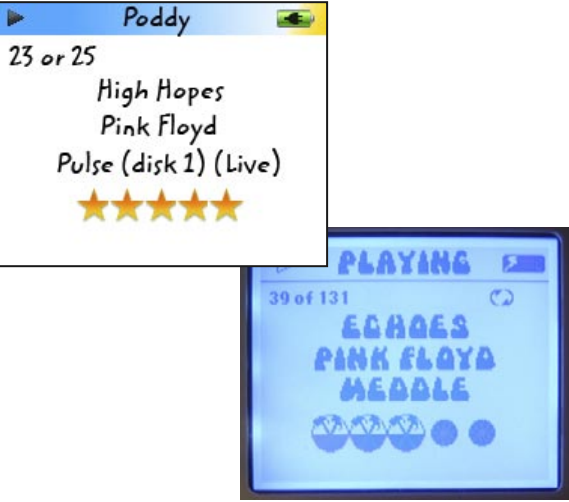
What can you do with iGuy? Make people laugh. Mostly protect your iPod. Pose his arms. And if you have a color-screened iPod, put crazy things on its screen like a face and see how people react. Though admittedly better suited to some tastes, and only semi-practical, iGuy is a lot of fun - and very unique.

iPodWizard

By now, you've heard the standard warnings: modifying your iPod's body or guts could screw up your iPod, void its warranty, and so on. Definitely bear these admonitions in mind before trying **iPodWizard** (ipodwizard.net), a PC program that will let you change all the icons and fonts on your black-and-white or color iPod's screen.

All of them? Yup. Individual artists have identified all of the graphics by their numbers: image 017 is the 4 in the color iPod's clock; 67 is the black ball in the Brick game; 137 is the red heart in Solitaire. The site's forums contain alternatives to all of Apple's black-and-white and color icons, plus "themes" such as Legend of Zelda and Pac-Man art packs for fans of the classic games. If you can't find the art you're looking for, you can make it yourself.

Regrettably, iPodWizard's a bit too complex for computer novices - you'll need to be diligent to page through the site's support forums, tutorials, and free downloads to learn how to make each type of change. But if you spend the time, the results can be very impressive. These great examples were assembled by "Poddy" and "Super Stupified" from parts created by other iPodWizard forum members.



Shufflesome Stickers



If you're an iPod shuffle owner, you're probably feeling left out right now, and we know why. No one's bothered to come up with replacement lights, body paints, or wacky enclosures for Apple's tiny iPod - yet - but there are still some cheap body-changing options.

Shufflesome's full-body iPod shuffle **stickers** (\$7.88 each, iLounge rating: B, shufflesome.com) cover each shuffle surface with high-quality original artwork submitted by independent artists. Votes are held on the site to choose art worthy of production, and then the German company produces Teflon-coated, vinyl stickers that are easy enough to apply and remove. Other companies such as TuneWear (tunewear.com, iLounge rating: A-) sell stickers that are less expensive and at least equally protective, but Shufflesome's are the edgiest ones available.

6

Expanding Your iPod: Add-Ons. These handy items allow your iPod to perform feats it can't handle fresh out of the box: camera transfers, voice recording, FM radio tuning, and playing for days.

FM Radio



Once Apple solved most of the battery run-time concerns facing owners of early iPods, attention turned to another glaring omission: an FM radio tuner. Unlike most of its competitors, the iPod can't receive any sort of live radio broadcast, so third-parties have been working - well, less than feverishly - to develop add-ons containing the desirable features.

BTI's TuneStir (\$69.95, iLounge rating: B-) is the only option available today. It does a decent job, using a digital tuner to pull channels from 87.9 to 107.9FM from the airwaves, but tends to deliver flattened, talk radio sound quality that music aficionados won't appreciate. It also serves as a remote control and, much more competently, as an FM transmitter.

Griffin's iFM and **Kensington's Digital FM Transmitter/Radio**, previewed earlier in Sneak Peeks, are both planned for availability in the next couple of months. Each promises to deliver superior FM radio quality, but we'll reserve judgment until we've heard them for ourselves.

Voice Recorders

Working with Apple, Belkin began the iPod-as-audio recorder craze back two years ago with the **Belkin Voice Recorder** (\$49.99, iLounge rating: B), a simple white plastic microphone nub that was soon joined by a separate add-on, the **Universal Microphone Adapter** (\$39.99, iLounge rating: C+). Now the company is selling **TuneTalk** (\$29.99, iLounge rating: B), a foam-padded, omnidirectional microphone that sticks out of your iPod's top and lets you record conversations, lectures, and voice memos. A red light inside the mic's removable foam head lets you know that it's recording.

Only voice? Unfortunately, yes. Apple's decision to limit the iPod's recording ability to monaural, 8kHz WAV files is a strong disincentive to use any of these devices to record music or better-than-voice-quality sounds. And neither iPod minis nor shuffles are compatible with these recorders - all the more reason for Apple to improve.

If you want a single device with most of the best features of the three Belkin products, **Griffin Technologies' iTalk** (\$39.99, iLounge rating: A-) continues to lead the voice recorder category, bundling an integrated microphone, a dual-purpose input/output port for headphones or an external mic, and automatic gain control for superior ability to lock on to the important sounds in a room.



Camera Connectors



iPods have been storing digital photos for almost two years, and newer models can display them on their color screens. But how do you get the photos onto your iPod? If you don't want to use your computer as an intermediary, you'll need one of three solutions. **Apple's iPod Camera Connector** (\$29, iLounge rating: B+, top left) is an inexpensive adapter that lets you connect color-screened iPods directly to the USB cables that come with popular digital cameras. Once connected, you keep the iPod and camera turned on while photos are transferred, a slow process that will take between 2 and 7 seconds per Megabyte of photos, but yields instantly iPod-viewable shots. **Belkin's Media Reader** (\$49.99, iLounge rating: B+, below) removes your camera from the equation, directly reading CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Memory Stick, SD and MMC media cards at similar speeds without draining your camera's battery. Both the Media Reader and a separate Belkin device, the **Digital Camera Link** (\$39.99, iLounge rating: B), will also transfer files to black-and-white screened iPods with Dock Connectors on their bottoms, but you won't be able to view the photos without a computer.

We've reviewed lots of batteries over the last few years, and it's fair to say that the market has evolved a lot since we started. Early iPod battery packs were big like rucksacks, stuffed with AA or thick rechargeable cells, but more recent offerings have emphasized thinness and styling over longevity. Some companies have made packs specific to the bodies of the iPod, iPod mini, or iPod shuffle, while others have gone with one-size-fits-most designs.

On performance for the dollar, the best option currently available is **BTI's iPod Battery ii** (\$89.99, iLounge rating: A-, right), which adds at least two full days of added run time to any iPod or iPod mini, with newer models lasting longer than older ones. **Tekkeon's myPower** (iLounge rating: B+, \$89.95, below, left) and **Nyko's iBoost/iBoost mini** (\$79.99, iLounge ratings: B, second from left below) don't last as long, but are smaller and lighter.

iPod shuffle owners have a couple of options. **Apple's official iPod shuffle Battery Pack** (\$29, iLounge rating: A-) is very small and easy to wear on your neck, using two AAA batteries to double your shuffle's run time. **ezGear's PowerStick Shuffle** (\$22.98, iLounge rating: B+, bottom right) is a lot bigger, but gives travelers the ability to fully recharge the shuffle four times off of four AA batteries (not included). There's also a **PowerStick** for other iPods (\$20.97, iLounge rating: B), which uses the same AA's.



External Battery Packs



7

Protecting Your iPod: Cases. Since our last Buyers' Guide, we've tested an incredible array of new ways to keep different iPods free of scuffs and dings. Here are the best of the last four months' additions.

iPod shuffle



When we released our last Buyers' Guide, protective options for the iPod shuffle were few in number, and a debate was about to start over this question: "does the iPod shuffle really need protection?"

If you look at your iPod shuffle as a disposable iPod, the answer might be no. But many new iPod owners view the shuffle as a treasure worthy of protection. And a surprising number of superb cases have been released, in some ways eclipsing the designs of their full-sized iPod counterparts. **Griffin Technology's iVault** (\$19.99, left) is a machined aluminum case that's slicker than any other we've seen, featuring your choice of five metallic front and back shell colors. But iVault has two idiosyncracies - it seals closed with screws, and leaves your shuffle's USB plug exposed. If you can look past this, the case's looks will kill, and they only improve if you mix and match different colored halves. Each iVault includes one shell and a USB cable, but the company may eventually offer two-packs.



XtremeMac's TuffWrapz for iPod shuffle (\$24.95/3, center left) are also attractive, but for different reasons: they combine an iVault-like design with silicone rubber. They also leave holes for the shuffle's front controls, but lightly cover the rear ones and use nice molded grips on their sides. Separate lanyard and standard USB cap covers are included, too. You'll need to buy three colors at a time, but you'll like the bright tones.

OtterBox's OtterBox for iPod shuffle (\$29.95, below left) is the most resilient case yet released for the small iPod: it's dirtproof, dustproof, drop-proof and even waterproof, the latter unfortunately only to a depth of three feet. A detachable lanyard's included, and a water- or exercise-ready black neoprene armband is optional.

TuneWear's Icewear for iPod shuffle (\$14.95, below right) is one of the highest-rated shuffle cases we've reviewed. It's highly protective, looks really unique thanks to its ribbed sides, and uses a smart ball bearing chain to keep your USB cap from falling off of the body. Your shuffle's rear switch is the only exposed element on the body.



iPod mini

We've looked at over sixty cases for the iPod mini since its release in early 2004, and if anything's changed, it's fashion: companies have mostly figured out how to protect the color-bodied aluminum mini, and now they want to make it more fun or cool to carry around. **Moshi and Aevoe's Mini iPouch** (\$14.99) is a simple but good design - a soft fabric bag with a drawstring and a pocket for headphones. Pick from five colors, and it'll actually keep your iPod clean inside.

LifePod's Urban Camouflage ModPod minis (\$24.99) look like girls' fashion accessories - detachable straps, hip fabric front and back plates, and a clear mini holder inside. Twenty-four different colors are now available. **Booq's leather Venom mini** cases (\$29.95) are a more masculine take on iPod mini protection, with your choice of two serious colors and a classy suede interior. They feel better built than most iPod mini cases, but except for their orange Booq logos, they're stylistically very familiar.



Full-Sized iPod

Just as with iPod minis, innovation in full-sized iPod case design is more rare these days than attempts to improve visually upon earlier products. But that isn't to say that iPod cases are getting boring - they're actually better than ever. New casemaker **Sumo Cases** has some spectacular leather, suede, and ballistic nylon **Flap** cases (\$19.99-\$29.99, top left) to fit any full-sized iPod, while established Argentine case designer **Vaja** has released the visually stunning but expensive black and red leather **iVod DJ** (\$80.00 and up), which can be customized with different colors and a matching wheel protector.

Plastic cases are also continuing to evolve. **OtterBox** has released an eponymous waterproof case for full-sized iPods (\$49.95, center) with the same general features as the iPod shuffle version, except a detachable belt clip instead of a lanyard. **Speck Products' Portfolio Skins** (\$34.95, right) offer a unique folio-style clear soft plastic holder in your choice of two colors, with four different colored straps per package. iPod mini Portfolio Skins and OtterBoxes are also available.



8

Maintaining Your iPod. Treated with care, your iPod will work for years, but you may need to replace its internal battery or repair other parts that can be damaged over time. Here are your best options.

Keep Your Battery Going



Did you know?

According to Apple, the numbers below represent **typical run times** for each iPod model. Apple said it came up with these numbers by using factory default settings and playing continuously through a playlist, with both the backlight and equalizer off.

1G/2G iPod (5, 10, 20GB) - 10 hours
 3G iPod (10, 15, 20, 30, 40GB) - 8 hours
 4G/HP iPod (20, 20 U2, 40GB) - 12 hours
 Color iPod/iPod photo (20, 30, 40, 60GB) - 15 hours
 iPod mini (first-generation 4GB) - 8 hours
 iPod mini (second-generation 4GB/6GB) - 18 hours
 iPod shuffle (512MB/1GB) - 12 hours

A properly maintained iPod battery is designed to retain up to 80% of its original capacity after 400 full charge and discharge cycles. But what's proper maintenance? Here are the steps Apple says you should follow.

First, **keep your iPod at room temperature** - near 68° F (20° C). While it can be used between 32° to 95° F (0°-35° C), excess cold or heat adversely affects the lifespan. So keep your iPod out of hot cars, and let it warm up close to room temperature before waking it from sleep.

Second, **use your iPod on a regular basis**. Every iPod's battery is lithium-based, so it's important to keep the electrons inside moving occasionally. Be sure to go through at least one charge cycle per month (use up your iPod's battery until it goes to sleep, then fully charge it).

These other tips aren't as critical, but will also help. **Fully charge your iPod** to get the most out of it. An iPod battery charges to 80 percent of its capacity in an hour, but can take up to four hours to fully recharge.

Use the Hold switch! If your iPod is playing, it's eating up battery life. So make sure that it's not playing when you're not listening. Set the Hold switch to "on" when you're done and it won't accidentally wake up.

To minimize battery drain, **turn the backlight and equalizers off**. Your iPod's backlight uses up more battery than anything else. If you can live without it (at least for a while), turn it off. You can also **turn off the Equalizer** to extend your playtime - go to Settings > EQ > Off.

To cut hard drive accessing down, and improve battery performance, **try to avoid repeatedly changing songs**. Changing tracks with the Next/Fast-Forward and Previous/Rewind buttons will force your iPod's hard drive to work overtime to keep up. Similarly, if you can, **use compressed songs**. Your iPod works best with tracks of average file sizes (under 8MB), as it doesn't need to keep loading from the hard drive with every song. So if you listen to a lot of AIFF or Apple Lossless format songs, you might want to compress them as MP3s or AACs instead.

Replace Your Own Battery



At least two reputable companies are now selling do-it-yourself iPod internal battery replacement kits, both of which promise to give your iPod an even longer run time than Apple's original parts.

We've reviewed and liked three of **Newer Technology's NuPower** batteries (\$24.99-\$39.95) for older iPods, and now the company has expanded the line to include versions for every iPod except the shuffle. Using two plastic spreaders, you open the iPod yourself, and pop in a battery that runs 20-70% longer than Apple's originals. **FastMac's TruePower** series (\$29.95-\$39.95) advertise slightly lower run times than Newer's, but promise more recharge/discharge cycles, and offer a two-year warranty for guaranteed longevity. Our advice: only dextrous, tech-savvy users should self-install batteries.

*it = the music.

Get it on. Get it off.
 Get it started.*



Anapod Explorer
 by Red Chair Software

iPod software. iTunes alternative. Music backup. Explorer integrated. And more.

ZVOX. The new standard in iPod sound. www.zvoxaudio.com 1-866-FOR-ZVOX

"If you want to hear what your iPod really sounds like, I recommend ZVOX. The best I've heard."

Gary Krakow, MSNBC

Factory-Direct:
\$199⁹⁹
zvoxaudio.com



iPod & dock
 not included.

The ZVOX 315 is one of the most highly reviewed audio systems ever made. Designed by Winslow Burhoe, it includes high quality speakers, subwoofer, amplifier and PhaseCue virtual surround all in a single cabinet. Michael Fremer of *Stereophile* says the 315 is "An audiophile-quality mini system...just add iPod." Buy direct from the factory and get a 30-day money-back guarantee, so you can try it at home.

ZVOX
 Great Sound Made Simple

© ZVOX is a registered trademark of ZVOX Audio LLC. iPod is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

Repairs: Apple and Others



If your iPod's in need of repairs, you have two choices: contact Apple, or find a reputable third-party repair service. Apple provides 90 days of phone support and a year of hardware coverage, both of which are extended to two years with the \$59 **AppleCare Protection Plan for iPod** (left). After the 90 days are up, and assuming you didn't cause the problem, go to a local Apple Store for help.

Unfortunately, Apple's repair service isn't fast. Kansas-based **iPodResQ.com** offers a quicker \$29 service that will overnight an **iBox** for your iPod to you, then back to them, then back to you. They'll diagnose your problem for no additional charge, but parts will cost extra, with reasonable prices (\$20-\$124) for brand new screens, face plates, and hard drives. **TechRestore.com** has a virtually identical service for the iPod called **iPodRestore**, available in various packages - for \$10 you can send in your iPod yourself and get a diagnosis with overnight return shipping, \$29 will buy overnight 3-way-shipping, and \$59-189 more will buy you both a new screen and battery, depending on iPod model. The costs of other replacement parts are shown at techrestore.com/xcart/home.php?cat=280.

Need a third opinion? **iPodMods.com** provides a competing repair service that's quote-based; send in your iPod and they'll either fix it for a fee or buy it from you.

Unless it's kept at all times in protective cases, a factory-fresh, mirror-polished iPod is destined to eventually reflect all of the scratches and scuffs it sustains in your everyday life. We've tested three different generations of plastic and metal scratch removers, two from Radtech (radtech.us) and one from iCleaner (icleaner.com).

Radtech's Ice Creme Version 2 (\$20.95-\$25.95, iLounge rating: A-) is currently the best we've seen, with two polishing cremes and a resurfacing pad that together can almost entirely restore a full-sized iPod's original front and back shine. (They're not intended for use with the iPod mini, and don't do as much for the iPod shuffle.)

iCleaner's kits (\$14.95-\$35.00) have been upgraded since we last reviewed them (iLounge rating: B), and now promise to do an even better job on scratches of all sorts. Both companies' products may leave small surface scratches in swirl patterns, mostly on metal, so don't expect perfection - just something much closer than before.

Restore Your iPod's Shine



Battery Swap Services



Though you can replace an iPod's battery by yourself, the process will require nimble fingers and more than a bit of patience. **FastMac** (\$49.95, fastmac.com) and **Newer Technology** (\$39, newertech.com) offer professional battery replacement services for the parts shown on the left page - priced *in addition* to the battery's cost, but including shipping to and from you. Newer uses FedEx 2-day. **TechRestore.com** offers a 1-day service for \$69 including battery. These are the fastest ways non-techies can get iPods up and running.

For an even smaller total price, **Apple** now offers the **Out of Warranty Battery Replacement Program**, which for \$65.95 plus local tax will swap your old battery with a new one rated for the same level of performance as the original. Apple's turnaround time is one to three weeks, depending on whether your iPod's engraved. The service page is at apple.com/support/ipod/service/battery.html.



iBall™ Wireless Stereo Speaker

Take your playlist further, wirelessly. The iBall allows you to take your music up to 100' from your Apple® iPod® while it charges and syncs to your computer. It's a perfect way to round out your iPod collection. Available in October 2005.

Visit www.oregonscientific.com for more.



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Selling Your iPod. No guide to an iPod's life would be complete without this: a look at what sellers and buyers can expect used iPods to fetch when they're ready to move on to bigger and better models.

Amazon.com Marketplace



One of our favorite places to sell used items is **Amazon.com's Marketplace** - you've seen the "Used & New" links at the top right of every product page. Amazon takes a cut of your sale, but handles payment processing and shipping in a predictable, standardized way.

Unlike eBay, it's harder to sell older model iPods on Amazon because of the site's focus on what's new, but if you do, you *might* get more than on eBay. Here are asking prices for recent iPods, minis, and shuffles in various used and refurbished conditions, each from merchants/users with reasonable seller ratings. Be careful buying from "I'm new!" sellers.

10GB 3G iPod:	\$165-200	40GB Color iPod:	\$360-395
15GB 3G iPod:	\$200-210	4GB 1G iPod mini:	\$162-213
20GB 4G iPod:	\$219-299	4GB 1G iPod mini:	\$168-187
40GB 4G iPod:	\$327-\$389	6GB 2G iPod mini:	\$235-\$245
20GB Color U2 iPod:	\$325-\$330	512MB iPod shuffle:	\$83-99
30GB Color iPod:	\$325-350	1GB iPod shuffle:	\$123-129

iPod Selling Prices on eBay

What are average people (not businesses) getting for used iPods on **eBay**? Here are the average sale prices for still functional units as of this issue's date, taking into account only trivial included accessories.

Capacity	Model Number	Average Price
Original (1G) iPod (Mechanical Scroll Wheel)		
5GB (Mac)	M8513LL/A	\$92.87
5GB (Mac)	M8541LL/A	\$85.43
5GB (PC)	M8697LL/A	\$101.17
10GB (Mac)	M8709LL/A	\$110.75
2G iPod (Touch Sensitive Scroll Wheel)		
10GB (Mac)	M8737LL/A	\$93.93
10GB (PC)	M8740LL/A	\$123.74
20GB (Mac)	M8738LL/A	\$173.75
20GB (PC)	M8741LL/A	\$177.67
3G iPod (Dock Connector / 4 Touch Buttons)		
10GB	M8976LL/A	\$146.67
15GB (Apr 2003)	M8946LL/A	\$163.14
15GB (Jan 2004: Fewer Pack-ins)	M9460LL/A	\$150.48
20GB	M9244LL/A	\$180.78
30GB	M8948LL/A	\$212.85
40GB	M9245LL/A	\$222.50
4G iPod & Mid-2005 Color-Screened iPods (Click Wheel)		
20GB (B&W)	M9282LL/A	\$203.72
20GB U2 (B&W)	M9787LL/A	\$202.17
40GB (B&W)	M9268LL/A	\$232.69
20GB (Color)	MA079LL/A	\$281.62
20GB U2 (Color)	MA127LL/A	\$295.80
60GB (Color)	M9830LL/A	\$359.67

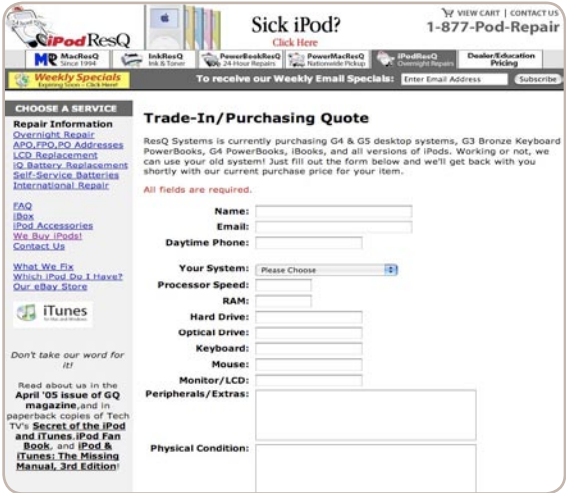
Capacity	Model Number	Average Price
iPod photo (Early Color-Screened iPods)		
30GB	M9829LL/A	\$268.61
40GB	M9585LL/A	\$300.00
60GB (Oct 2004)	M9586LL/A	\$395.00
60GB (Feb 2005: Fewer Pack-ins)	M9830LL/A	\$358.67
Original (1G) iPod mini (Five Colors, 4GB only)		
4GB, silver	M9160LL/A	\$150.11
4GB, blue	M9436LL/A	\$150.13
4GB, pink	M9435LL/A	\$150.25
4GB, green	M9434LL/A	\$154.83
4GB, gold	M9437LL/A	\$141.15
2G iPod mini (Brighter Colors, Capacity Denoted on Back)		
4GB, silver	M9800LL/A	\$177.31
4GB, blue	M9802LL/A	\$167.50
4GB, pink	M9804LL/A	\$170.51
4GB, green	M9806LL/A	\$168.42
6GB, silver	M9801LL/A	\$199.21
6GB, blue	M9803LL/A	\$196.26
6GB, pink	M9805LL/A	\$205.51
6GB, green	M9807LL/A	\$195.34
iPod shuffle		
512MB	M9724LL/A	\$77.80
1GB	M9725LL/A	\$100.18

Bulk Buyers: Broken iPods

It pains us to say it, but an iPod's only as good as its parts. Worse yet, if one of them doesn't work, the whole thing can become useless, and it might be almost as expensive to repair as it is to replace.

iPodMods (ipodmods.com) is willing to buy iPods for \$50 if they're completely broken, with prices of \$110 and up for units with good screens and working hard drives. **iPodResQ** (ipodresq.com) pays between \$25-\$125, with one-problem 3G/4G iPods at around \$75.

Several other online iPod repair shops offer to buy iPods, but don't provide their addresses online. One called **BrokeniPods.com** promises to pay the "best price on the net" for broken iPods, but doesn't provide pricing; **iPodMechanic.com** has a form, but told us it will buy broken iPods (not shuffles) for prices between \$35-125.



Sometimes, the fastest way to dispose of a used, working iPod is to find a company that's already in the business of doing the exact same thing. You won't receive as much for your iPod as you might through Amazon or eBay, but you can liquidate your old hardware quickly - sometimes as a trade-in towards the purchase of a newer model. **Small Dog Electronics** (smalldog.com) offers the following trade-in prices for working iPods, with a mere \$25 credit for a non-working salvage unit - a big potential loss, depending on model.

5GB iPod (1G):	\$40
10GB iPod (1G/2G):	\$50
10GB iPod (3G):	\$70
20GB iPod (2G):	\$85
15GB iPod (3G):	\$100
20GB iPod (3G):	\$120
30GB iPod (3G):	\$140
40GB iPod (3G):	\$160
20GB iPod (4G):	\$130
40GB iPod (4G):	\$160
20GB iPod photo:	\$150
30GB iPod photo:	\$165
40GB iPod photo:	\$180
60GB iPod photo:	\$235
4GB iPod mini:	\$90
6GB iPod mini:	\$105
512MB iPod shuffle:	\$40
1GB iPod shuffle:	\$65



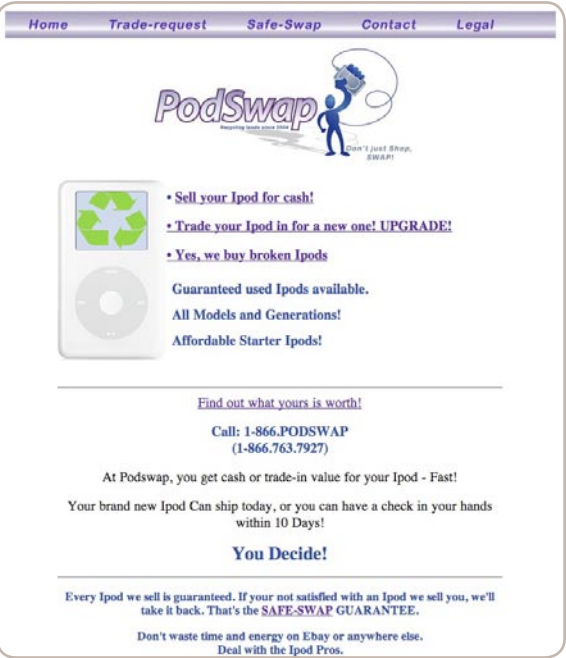
iPodMechanic.com currently offers these prices for used, working iPods:

10GB (3G) -	\$85
15GB (3G) -	\$100
20GB (3G) -	\$115
20GB (4G) -	\$150
40GB (4G) -	\$175
4GB mini (1G) -	\$75-100
4GB mini (2G) -	\$85-110
6GB mini (2G) -	\$100-130

Just remember - you'll need to buy something to qualify for Small Dog's prices, a factor that might make other options more appealing.

Bulk Buyers: Working iPods

Another site, Miami, Florida-based **PodSwap.com**, buys and trades iPods of various conditions. Like many other vendors, PodSwap provides prices after you fill out a form.



Trading Your iPod to... Apple?

If you're not looking to scour the Internet or local newspapers for selling opportunities, **Apple** has an option: bring in your old iPod as a trade-in on a new one, and get 10% off. Since working iPods fetch way more on eBay than the \$39 you'll save on a 60GB iPod, we'd pass.



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Replacing Your iPod. Whether you're buying your first or third iPod, our updated guide to currently available models will help you pick something for your needs. But we expect new models very soon.

iPod (Color Display)



Body

The iPod mini's anodized aluminum body is scratch-resistant, unlike the glossy iPod.

Top

Other than the left/right positions of their extended headphone ports and Hold switches, they're the same.

Screen

Color-screened iPods have 2-inch, 220x176 pixel, 65,536-color displays with white backlights, and can display photographs, album artwork, and simple color games. iPod minis have 1.67-inch, 138x110 pixel displays, each with a blue-white backlight, and can not display photos or album art.

Click Wheel Controls

Five buttons and a flat, touch-sensitive scrolling surface control both iPods. Menu brings you back to a menu, while the center Action button selects what's highlighted on screen. Forward, reverse, and play/pause are push-buttons, while volume and scrolling are controlled by brushing your finger over the flat wheel. The iPod mini's wheel is smaller.

Dock Connector Port

Power chargers, speakers, and most other accessories connect to this bottom port, identical on both iPods with screens.

iPod mini



Body

A shuffle is all white plastic save the gray ring on its Control Pad, metal USB plug, and white fabric lanyard.

Headphone Port

The shuffle's simple circular port is for headphones, and doesn't work with standard iPod top-mounting accessories.

Control Pad

Apple's simplified controls include five buttons on front for volume up and down, track forward and backward, and play/pause. A power switch is on back, and toggles between ordered and randomized playback. Power is indicated with a light on the back; play and data status with two lights hidden above the Control Pad.

USB Plug

Unlike the Dock Connector, the USB plug doesn't need a cable to connect to any computer, and recharges its battery there.

Caps

Two USB caps are included with every shuffle: one for your pocket, another with an integrated lanyard necklace. They lock into place with ball bearings, and won't fall off.

iPod shuffle



Why would I prefer one iPod to another?

If you're only looking to carry around eight CDs, the \$99 iPod shuffle is a good solution - cheap, small, and simple. Shuffles are good workout partners, but not ideal full-time iPods.

A "real" iPod experience requires a mini or full-sized iPod, designed to store every CD you own and give you one-finger access to any song at any time. The cell phone-sized \$199 iPod mini holds 80-100 CDs worth of music - just enough for the typical person's music collection - plus text and games. It's a great compromise for workout fiends and average people.

But serious music lovers will want at least the 5,000-song standard iPod - extra space means less reason to replace it in the near future. The ability to display color photos and album artwork is fun, too, though its larger, polished body is marginally less convenient for active users.

	iPod shuffle	iPod mini	iPod/U2 iPod
Battery Life	12-18 Hours	18-26 Hours	15-17 Hours
Size & Weight	3.3"x1.0"x0.3", 0.78 oz	3.6"x2.0"x0.5", 3.6 oz	4.1"x2.4"x0.63" or 0.75", 5.9-6.4oz
Body Colors & Materials	1 Plastic	4 Aluminum	2 Plastic+Metal
Key Pack-In	Lanyard	Belt Clip	None
Plays Music	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stores Data	Yes	Yes	Yes
Screen	No	B&W	Color photos
Uses iPod accessories	No	Yes	Yes

Which iPods do iLounge editors prefer?

We own and enjoy all of them, but our favorites are the iPod for everyday use and either the 20-Gigabyte iPod or the iPod mini for workouts. None of us could just own a shuffle and nothing else, and even the iPod mini's current Gigabyte sizes are limiting.

What else is coming?

Super iPod shuffle? New mini?

Something like an iPod shuffle, but with a LCD screen? An iPod mini with a color screen? That's the buzz. We'll believe these when we see them.

Motorola iPod phone

All Apple has said is that the first one will cost under \$300 and be available by the end of September, of this year. Rumors suggest that a memory expansion card will let it hold approximately 120 songs.

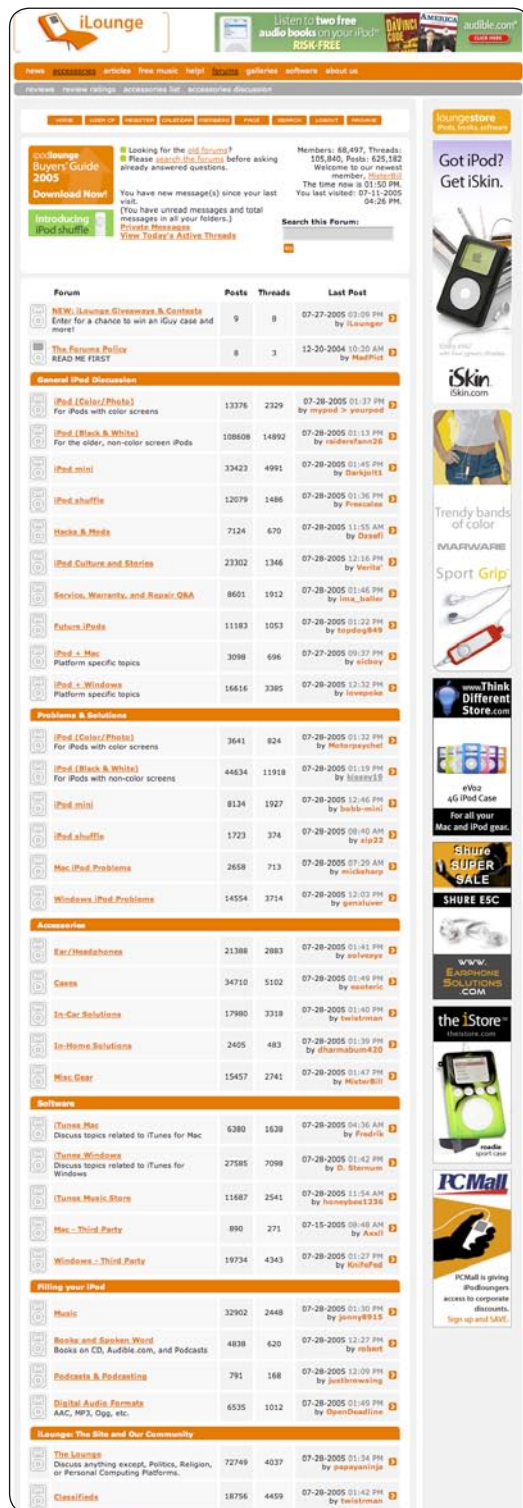
Fifth-Generation iPod

Something new is coming out in time for the 2005 holiday season, but its features are still unknown. Video playback is widely expected, and games may also be playable. Think September or October.

	iPod shuffle 512MB	iPod shuffle 1GB	iPod mini 4GB	iPod mini 6GB	iPod 20GB (Color)	U2 iPod 20GB (Color)	iPod 60GB (Color)
Number of Songs	120	240	1000	1500	5000	5000	15000
Price	US\$99	US\$129	US\$199	US\$249	US\$299	US\$329	US\$399
iLounge Rating	A-/B	A-/B	B+	B+	A	A	A
Buy if You'll Carry	Your greatest hits collection, played in any order		An 80-100 CD music collection, accessible by track		A large or high-quality music collection, lots of data, and/or your digital photographs.		

+1

Joining The iPod Community. No matter where you live, iPodders are closer than you think. Our 70,000-member Discussion Forums are a good place to start, and our affiliated sites now span the globe.



Meet people. Learn something.

Where do iPod owners go to find people and advice? **The iLounge Discussion Forums.** With a searchable database of over 640,000 posts, the Forums contain an incredible amount of sage advice, generated by the world's largest community of iPod fans.

To keep up with changing times, we've continued to reorganize our master Forums list, giving new prominence to the renamed "iPod (Color/Photo)" Forums, and bringing our Podcasting sub-forum out onto the main page. We've also renamed our earlier (and most popular) "iPod" Forums to "iPod (Black & White)", hopefully making it easier to find information appropriate to the specific iPod you own.

And - no surprise - our second most popular Forum continues to be The Lounge, a general discussion group where people can discuss virtually any non-iPod topic they want. So even if you're visiting for iPod advice, say "hi" to the people who make the Forums as great as they are.

More info is only one click away.

Yes - there's an entire web site of information outside of the Discussion Forums. One click on the orange menu bar at the top of the screen will take you to our **News** section, updated multiple times every day; our **Accessories** section, full of the world's best iPod and accessory reviews; our **Articles** section, with weekly iTunes-related tutorials and features, opinionated editorials, and frequent First Looks at new iPod add-ons. Our **Free Music** section will help you find iPod-filling sites, and our **Galleries** are full of both fun and informational iPod and packaging photos, art and pictures submitted by iLounge readers, and more.

We've also created two easy ways to find helpful tips and advice we've previously posted to the site. Click on **Help!** at the top of the page to see frequently asked questions (and their answers), tutorials, pointers to Apple's official iPod support pages, and software downloads for PCs, Macs, and Linux-based computers.

Still need help? Ask iLounge.

We're willing to bet that you can find the answer to any question you have by using the Search buttons on the main site or the Forums. But if you're still struggling, come and **Ask iLounge**. Found in the center of the left hand column of the main page, this weekly feature has answered at least five reader questions for more than 30 weeks now. A complete linked archive of past questions is available at the bottom of each week's column, and our six most popular questions appear at the top of each page. Submit your questions to ask@ilounge.com.

If you're looking for iPod information and communities located elsewhere in the world, check out our friends on the next page. They love iPods, report on events taking place all over the globe, and provide quality insight in non-English languages.

International Sites: iLounge Around the World

euPodo.com.br (Brazil)



iPodfun.de (Germany)



iPodMania.it (Italy)



iPodStyle.se (Sweden)



iPod.webaq.tw (Taiwan)



iPodStyle.net (Japan)



iPodNoticias.com (Spain)



iPodGeneration.com (France)



iPodum.com (Turkey)



iPoding.ru (Russia)



Our friends in Europe, Asia, and South America provide regional and international iPod news in 10 foreign languages, and often operate their own discussion forums specific to those languages. If you thought the global iPod community was big but haven't seen it for yourself, give each of these great sites a visit.

iLounge Around the World Member List:

Brazil: euPodo.com.br
 France: iPodfanatic.com
 France: iPodgeneration.com
 Germany: iPodfun.de
 Italy: iPodmania.it
 Japan: iPodclub.info
 Japan: iPodstyle.net
 Netherlands: iPodreporter.nl
 Russia: iPoding.ru
 Spain: iPodnoticias.com
 Sweden: iPod.se
 Sweden: iPodstyle.se
 Taiwan: iPod.webaq.tw
 Turkey: iPodum.com

Do you operate a non-U.S. site that covers iPod and iTunes products? Want to be part of the Around the World network? E-mail us at info@ilounge.com. We'd love to hear from you, especially if your country isn't represented.

The iLounge Report Card. We've reviewed over 500 accessories and iPods since Apple's 2001 launch, and summarized them in one simple table. Start your hunt here, then read the site's comprehensive reviews for details.

Adapters and Cables

SendStation PocketDock Combo	A
SendStation PocketDock	A-
SendStation PocketDock Line Out USB	A-
Better Energy Systems Solio	B+
Capdase Universal Power Adapter	B+
Capdase USB Power Adapter/shuffle	B+
Global Source Retractable USB/FW	B+
Griffin Technology Dock400 Cable	B+
Griffin Technology Dock800 Cable	B+
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394A 3D	B+
Macally Link360 USB 3D Adapter	B+
Nyko Stereo Link Cable	B+
SendStation FireWire & Line Out	B+
XtremeMac Audio Kit for iPod shuffle	B+
Apple iPod USB Power Adapter	B
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394B 3D	B
Gadget Accessories USB Sync Cable	D

Batteries

BTI's The iPod Battery	A
Newer Technology NuPower Super 1G/2G A	
Apple iPod shuffle Battery Pack	A-
BTI's The iPod Battery ii	A-
Newer Technology NuPower Hi-Cap 3G A-	
Compact Power Systems Cellboost	B+
ezGear PowerStick Shuffle	B+
Tekkeon myPower Battery Pack	B+
Belkin Backup Battery Pack	B
BTI AA iPod Battery	B
ezGear PowerStick iPod Battery Pack	B
Griffin TuneJuice BatteryPack	B
Nyko iBoost	B
Nyko iBoost mini Battery Pack	B
Belkin TunePower	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge Value	C
Gadget Accessories Battery Pack	F

Bluetooth Wireless

TEN Technology naviPlay	A-
Macally BlueWave Headset	B+
Bluetake I-Phono BT420EX	B
Logitech Wireless Headphones	B-
d.Muse iBlue Bluetooth Phone Adapter	C-

Camera Adapters

Apple iPod Camera Connector	B+
Belkin Media Reader	B+
Belkin Digital Camera Link	B

Car Mounts

ProClip Padded Adj. Holder w/ Tilt Swivel	A
Nyko Universal Car Mount	A-
Power Support Mobile Stand	A-
ProClip In-Car Mount for iPod photo	A-
ProClip Padded iPod In-Car Holder	A-
Griffin PodPod/iSqueez	B+
ProClip in-car holder for iPod	B+
Pro Fit Ultimount	B
Belkin TuneDok	B-
ProClip Padded w/ Tilt Swivel& Charging	B-
HandStands iGrip Sticky Pad	C-

Car Power Chargers, Kits and Adapters

TEN Technology FlexDock	A-
Belkin Auto Kit	B+
Belkin TuneBase FM Version 2	B+
BTI Auto/Air Adapter	B+
Dension ICE-Link Auto Integration Kit	B+
DLO New TransPod FM (Dock Conn.) V2	B+
iStore iPod2Car Line-Quality Integ. Kit	B+
Monster iAirPlay Charger	B+
SiK imp in-car charger/line out	B+
Sony CPA-9C Car Connecting Pack	B+
XtremeMac iPod Cassette Adapter V2	B+
DLO New TransPod FM (Dock Connector)	B
ezGear ezCharge for iPod shuffle	B
Griffin PowerPod	B
Incase Charger (Version 2)	B
Monster iCarPlay Cassette Adapter	B
Monster Ultra Low Profile Charger	B
Belkin TuneBase	B-
DLO TransPod (for original iPods)	B-
DLO TransPod for iPod shuffle	B-
Monster iCharger	B-
Belkin TuneBase FM	C+
Dension ICE-Link 1.1 Auto Integration Kit	C+
Griffin RoadTrip All-in-One Car Solution	C+
XtremeMac iPod Cassette Adapter	C
Macally iPodCarCharger	D
Gadget Accessories 3-in-1 Travel Charger	B+/F

Cases - iPod 4G/color (Click Wheel)

STM Cocoon case	A
Vaja i-Volution 4G with Wheel Protector	A
Otterbox Waterproof for iPod 4G/photo	A/A-
Contour Design Showcase	A-
Handstands iPak/iSnug Set	A-
iSkin eVo 2 with Wheel Cap	A-
Lajo eXoflp	A-
Marware CEO Classic 4G	A-
Marware SportSuit Convertible	A-
Marware TrailVue 4G	A-
Miyavix Kimono	A-
OtterBox oPod 4G/photo	A-
Speck Products ToughSkin	A-
Sumo Cases Flap	A-
Vaja iVod DJ	A-
Speck Products PortfolioSkin	A-/B+/C
Acme Made The Wallet	B+
Capdase Flip-Top Leather Case	B+
Core Cases/InnoPocket Magnum Case	B+
DLO Jam Jacket	B+
ezGear Clear Case	B+
H2O Audio SV-iP4G Underwater Housing	B+
Incase Wallet Fashion Case	B+
iSkin eVo 2	B+
Lajo eXo 2 / eXo2fb	B+
LifePod Urban Camouflage ModPods	B+
Matias iPod Armor 4G	B+
Moshi/Aevoie iPouch	B+
Pacific Rim Technologies 4gShield	B+
Power Support Silicone Jacket Set	B+
Proporta Crystal Case	B+
Speck Products HandSkin	B+
Speck Products iGuy	B+
Sumo Cases Quilted and Stripe	B+
Timbuk2 iPod Case	B+
Tunewear Icewear 4G	B+
Tunewear WaterWear 4G	B+
Speck Products 4G SkinTight Armband	B+/B
Capdase Soft Jacket	B
Gadget Accessories Solid Cover Case	B
Incase Journal Fashion Case	B
Incase Travel Kit	B
Lajo eXo / eXofb / eXo iPodArt	B
Lajo eXo 3x	B
Noreve Tradition Leather Case	B

Cases - iPod 4G/color (Click Wheel), cont'd

Piel Frama Luxurious Leather Case	B
RadTech Sleevez for iPod (4G/photo)	B
Rivet iGrab	B
Tunewear Prie Hook	B
XtremeMac Silicone Sleeve	B
Speck Products SkinTight 4G iPod Skin	B/B-
Apple iPod Socks	B-
Be-Ez Travel Bag	B-
Booq Venom45 Case	B-
DLO Jam Jacket Pro	B-
Hook Casemandu iPod Travel Case	B-
Incase Leather Sleeves	B-
Incase Pouch Fashion Case	B-
MCA Hautes Coutures Double Stitch	B-
Pacific Design iPod Flip Case	B-
Paul Frank iPod Cases	B-
Power Support Crystal Jacket 4G	B-
Rivet iGrab with QR Belt Clip/Dash Mount	B-
Agent 18 Click Shield	C+
DLO Action Jacket 4G	C+
Lajo eXo3	C+
Marware SportSuit Basic	C+
Mindknob Premium Glove Leather Case	C+
Pods Plus Leather Flipcase	C+
Acme Made The Traveller	C
Lajo Zip4g b	C
Lime iPod Peel Cases	C
Mobile Juice Skin Art 4G	C
Pacific Design Pouch	C-
Gadget Accessories Aluminum Case	D

Cases - iPod mini

Lajo exoflpmini	A
OtterBox for iPod mini Waterproof Case	A
Power Support Square Type Sil. Jacket	A
Vaja iVod mini	A
STM Mini Cocoon Travel Case	A
Tunewear Prie Classic Face Case	A
Capdase Metal Case for iPod mini	A-
Contour Design iSee-mini	A-
DLO Jam Jacket & Pro mini	A-
Handstands iPak/iSnug Set	A-
iSkin mini	A-
Kate Spade mini iPod Cases	A-
Lajo exo3mini	A-
Marware SportSuit Convertible	A-
Marware TrailVue	A-
Matias iPod Armor mini	A-
Miyavix Kimono	A-
Pacific Design iPod Mini Flip Case	A-
Power Support Crystal Jacket mini Set	A-
Speck Products Mini Arm Band	A-
Agent 18 Mini Shield Case	B+
Agent 18 Mini Shock Case	B+
Booq Venom mini Case	B+
Eroch Lili mini Waterproof Case	B+
H2O Audio SV-iMini Underwater Case	B+
Innopocket Metal Deluxe Case	B+
Lajo exo2mini	B+
Lajo exo2mini-fb	B+
LifePod Urban Camouflage ModPod minis	B+
Marware Santa	B+

Cases - iPod mini, cont'd

MCA Hautes Coutures Snow for iPod mini	B+
Moshi/Aevoie Mini iPouch	B+
Speck Products iGuy for mini	B+
Speck Products Mini FlipStand	B+
Speck Products PortfolioSkin for mini	B+
Targus Slide Case for iPod mini	B+
Tunewear WaterWear mini	B+
Vaja Classic case	B+
Capdase Flip Top Leather Case	B
ezGear Clear mini Case	B
Global Source Deluxe Leather Case	B
iLeath Mini Print Case	B
Incase Handcrafted Leather Sleeve	B
Innopocket Magnesium Case	B
Kroo Executive Leather Cases	B
Kroo Laguna Leather Cases	B
Kroo Soho Leather Cases	B
Marware Safari	B
Matias Clear iPod Armor mini	B
Rivet iGrab mini with Lanyard or Clip	B
Sena Detachable Flip	B
Slappa ShockShell	B-
Speck Mini iStyle	B
Speck Mini Skin	B
Targus Flip Case for iPod mini	B
Tunewear Icewear	B
Burning Love Airpodz	B-
Capdase Soft Jacket	B-
DC Shoes / Incase Sleeve	B-
Gadget Accessories Aluminum Case	B-
Marware MetroVue mini	B-
DLO Action Jacket mini case	C+
Krusell Music Multidapt for iPod mini	C+
Lajo exomini	C+
Marware Basic	C+
Marware Runabout	C+
Modus Design Dopi Cases	C+
RadTech Sleevez for iPod mini	C+
Bird-Electron POCO	C
Proporta Crystal mini Case	C-/D-
Mobifly iPod mini Mobifly Kit	D+
Tunewear Prie Hook mini	D-

Cases - iPod shuffle

Apple iPod shuffle Sport Case	A
TuneWear Icewear Shuffle	A
DLO Action Jacket for iPod shuffle	A-
iMojo shuffle Sweats	A-
OtterBox for iPod shuffle	A-
Power Support Silicone Jacket Shuffle	A-
XtremeMac TuffWrapz	A-
Agent 18 Shield 4 Shuffle Packs	B+
Apple iPod shuffle Armband	B+
Capdase Luxury Metal Case	B+
Capdase Soft Jacket Value Set	B+
Core Cases Aluminum Case	B+
Exopod Aluminum Magnetic Case	B+
Griffin SiliSkins	B+
Griffin iVault	B+
Pacific Rim Technologies Gel Shield	B+
Pods Plus Crystal Case for iPod shuffle	B+
Speck Connect & Protect for iPod shuffle	B+

Cases - iPod shuffle, cont'd

Vaja AP11 for iPod shuffle	B+
A.B. Sutton Kidskin Case for iPod shuffle	B
Incase Pouch - Multipurpose Version	B
MCA Hautes Coutures Snow Case	B
Miyavix/Power Support Kimono Case	B
MP3Band-It Armband (1.5"Version)	B
PodGear JumpSuit Shuffle	B
DLO Jam Jackets and Caps	B-
XtremeMac SportWrap for iPod shuffle	B-
Incase Pouch - Five-Pack Version	C+
Pods Plus Leather Cases	C+
MP3 Band-It (1.0"Version)	C-
Pods Plus Silicone Skins for iPod shuffle	C-
Kroo Soho Leather Case for iPod shuffle	D+

Cases - 3G iPod (with Dock Connector)

Contour Design Showcase	A
Lajo eXoflp	A
Marware C.E.O. Classic 3G	A
STM Cocoon case	A
Vaja i-Vod 3G	A
iSkin eXo2 Case	A-
Self Design BodyMask	A-
Eroch Studios Lilipod Waterproof Case	B+
Gravis G-Pod	B+
iSkin eVo	B+
Lajo eXo 2 Case	B+
Marware CEO Glove 3G	B+
Matias iPod Armor	B+
Otterbox oPod	B+
Speck Products iSport	B+
Teski Roadie Case	B+
Incase Sleeve 3G Case	B
Lajo eXo and eXo Inferno Cases	B
Lajo eXo 3	B
Monster iCase Travel Pack	B
Power Support Silicone Jacket Set	B
RadTech PodSleevez	B
Piel Frama Leather Case	B
Speck Products FlipStand 3G	B
Terforma iSleeve G2	B
Teski Executive Leather Case	B
iLeath Leather Print Case	B-
Speck Products iPod Skin	B-
CaseClosed iPod Cases	C+
MacAlly PodCase Armband	C+
JAVOedge Design 1	C
Tune Belt iPod Armband Carrier	C-
Monster iSportCase	D+
Proporta Aluminum iPod Case	D-

Cases - 1G & 2G iPods (no Dock Connector)

Incase Pouch	A
Marware C.E.O Classic Case	A
Marware SportSuit Convertible	A
Vaja i-Vod	A
XtremeMac Deluxe (New & Improved)	A
iGlove Leather Case	A-
J.R. Hill & Co. iPod Sleeve Deluxe	A-
Krusell Classic Case	A-
Waterfield Designs Sooper Dooper	A-
XtremeMac Deluxe (Original)	A-

As a fully independent resource of information on Apple Computer's iPods, iLounge (formerly iPodlounge) has provided impartial reviews of iPods and accessories since the 2001 release of the first-generation iPod. Because of a strict separation between the business and editorial sides of iLounge, and our strong belief in the value of an objective resource for iPod owners around the world, our reviews are in no way influenced by advertising revenues or outside concerns. We have no ties to any manufacturer of iPod accessories, and no agenda other than the promotion of a safe and happy global community of iPod lovers.

Cases - 1G & 2G iPods (no Dock), cont'd

Contour Design iSee	B+
Groove Jacket	B+
Marware SportSuit Sleeve	B+
Matias iPod Armor	B+
Incase Designs Sleeve	B
OP/TECH USA MP3i Pouch	B
The Pouch MP3 Player Carrying Case	B
Vaja Classic Case	B
Belkin iPod Case	B-
NeoPod Neoprene Case	B-
Speck Products FlipStand	C+
Xigma Leather Case	C+
Krusell Handit Case	C
OWC Pod Protector	C
Willow Design BiFold Case	C

Cleaners & Polishes

Radtech Ice Creme (Version 2)	A-
iCleaner	B
Radtech Ice Crème (Version 1)	C+

Clips and Cord Managers

BlueLounge cableyoyo	A-
Audio Outfitters earPod Earbud Case	B
Sumajin SmartWrap Cord Manager	B
Apple iPod mini Lanyard	B-
Lajo TwistClips	B-
Tunewear TuneClip	C
Hook Industries BudFrog	D+

Clips and Guards - iPod shuffle

DLO Flip Clip for iPod shuffle	B+
DVforge The Clips for iPod shuffle	B+
Bruddy ShuffleMate	B
Marware Sport Grip for iPod shuffle	B
XtremeMac Shieldz	B
XtremeMac SuperClip	B-
XtremeMac SuperHook	B-
Griffin TuneCaps	C+
JP's Clip + Armband for iPod Shuffle	C+
XtremeMac Bumperz	C+
ShuffleClip by ShuffleClip	D+

FM Radio Receivers

BTI The iPod Tunestir 3-in-1	B-
------------------------------	----

FM Transmitters

XtremeMac AirPlay FM Transmitter	A
Griffin iTrip	A-
Griffin iTrip mini	A-
Kensington Digital FM Trans./Auto Charg.	A-
Belkin TuneCast II FM Transmitter	B+
C. Crane FM Transmitter	B+
Newer Technology RoadTrip! 87.9 FM	B+

FM Transmitters, cont'd

Newer Technology RoadTrip!+ (Plus)	B+
Tekkeon myPower FM Transmitter	B-
Monster iCarPlay FM Transmitter	C+
Dr. Bott iPod Connection Kit w/ FM Trans.	C
Irock! Wireless Music Adapter	C
XtremeMac AirPlay for iPod shuffle	C-
Sonnet Podfreq FM Transmitter	D+
Newer Technology RoadTrip!	D

Headphones & In-Canal Earphones

Etymotic Research ER-4S Earphones	A
Etymotic ER-6i Isolator Earphones	A
Sony MDR-EX81 Earphones	A
Ultimate Ears UE5c Custom Earphones	A
Bose QuietComfort 2 Noise Canceling	A-
Sennheiser MX500	A-
Sennheiser PMX60	A-
Shure E5c Earphones	A-
Sony Fontopia MDR-EX70/71LP	A-
Sony MDR-E888LP Fontopia Earphones	A-
Ultimate Ears super.fi 5 Pro	A-
Ultimate Ears UE-10 Pro Earphones	A-
Yahba Opus Earphones	A-
Audio-Technica ATH-CM3 Earphones	B+
Future Sonics Ears Model EM3 Earphones	B+
Headbanger Audio Ear Subs Earphones	B+
Shure E2c Earphones	B+
Shure E4c Sound Isolating Earphones	B+
Altec Lansing inMotion iM202 Earphones	B
Apple iPod In-Ear Headphones	B
Macally Noise Reduction Headphones	B
Sennheiser PX200	B
Shure E3c Earphones	B
Logitech Curve Headphones	B-
Griffin EarJams	C+
Macally Retractable Headphones	C+
HeadRoom iPod Earphone System	C
Plane Quiet Noise Reducing Headset	C
Altec Lansing iM302 Headphones	C-
JAVOedge retractable earbuds	D

Headphone Expanders

Macally PodDuo Headphone Adapter	A-
XtremeMac Audio Splitter	B+
XtremeMac Audio Splitter for shuffle (V2)	B+
Simpl Acoustics A1 Audio Amplifier	C
Upbeat Audio Boosteroo Revolution	C-
XtremeMac Audio Splitter for shuffle (V1)	D-

iPods

Apple 2G iPod 20GB Mac	A
Apple 3G iPod 15GB	A
Apple Color iPod U2 Special Edition	A
Apple Color 4G iPod 20/60GB	A

iPods, cont'd

Apple 2G iPod 10GB PC	A-
Apple 4G iPod: For New iPod Users	A-
Apple iPod from HP for New iPod Users	A-
Apple iPod photo for All Users	A-
Apple iPod shuffle for New iPod Users	A-
Apple 4G iPod: For Power Users	B+
Apple iPod from HP for Power Users	B+
Apple iPod mini 1G: For All Users	B+
Apple iPod mini 2G: For All Users	B+
Apple iPod Shuffle for Power Users	B

iPod Hardware Expanders - General

Griffin RadioSHARK	A-
Apple AirPort Express	B+
Griffin iBeam	B
DVforge JamPod Audio Mixer	C

Microphones & Microphone Adapters

Griffin iTalk	A-
Belkin TuneTalk Microphone	B
Belkin Voice Recorder	B
DLO VoiceNote Voice Recorder	B-
Griffin Lapel Mic Stereo Microphone	B-
Belkin Universal Microphone Adapter	C+

Remote Controls

ABT iJet Wireless RF Remote	A-
Griffin AirClick Wireless RF Remote Control	A-
Apple Remote (for Dock Connector iPods)	B+
Engineered Audio RemoteRemote 2 RF	B+
TEN Technology naviPro EX	B+
Nyko iTop Button Relocator	B
TEN Technology naviPod	B
DLO iDirect Wireless Remote	C

Software

Ratajik StationRipper	A
Migo Personal for iPod	B+
Talking Panda iLingo Translation Software	B+

Speakers

JBL Creature II 2.1 System	A
Pacific Rim Cube Travel Speakers	A
Altec Lansing inMotion iM7	A-
Altec Lansing iMmini	A-
Harman Soundsticks II 2.1 Speaker System	A-
iHome IH5 Docking Stereo Clock Radio	A-
JBL Encounter 2.1 Speakers	A-
JBL On Tour	A-
Macally PodWave	A-
PodGear PocketParty	A-
Altec Lansing iM3	B+
Bose SoundDock	B+
Elecom ASP-700i Speakers	B+

Speakers, cont'd

JBL On Stage	B+
Klipsch iFi Speaker System	B+
Logic3 i-Station Portable Speakers	B+
Macally IceTune	B+
Tivoli iPAL	B+
Altec Lansing inMotion	B
Ignitek iCarrier	B
Logitech mm22 Portable	B
PodGear Shuffle Station	B
Tiger Toys/Hasbro i-Dog Interactive	B
Mythix iChant Portable Active Speaker	B-
Techwiz Innovations Musak Bag	B-
Ignitek iCheer Speakers	C+
Monster iSpeaker Portable	C-
DLO iBoom (Version 2)	D-
DLO iBoom (Version 1)	F

Stands (Docks & Cradles)

Kensington Stereo Dock for iPod	A-
Pacific Rim Technologies Shuffle Cradle	A-
Power Support Metal Gear Stand	A-
Thought Out iPad 2 Adjustable Stand	A-
Belkin Hi-Speed USB 2.0 4-Port Hub	B+
ModPod	B+
Power Support Swivel Fix Stand	B+
Sonance iPort In-Wall Docking System	B+
Thought Out iPad Shuffle Dock	B+
Apple Dock (for Dock Connector iPods)	B
Apple iPod shuffle Dock	B
Bubble Design Habitat	B
DLO Flexible Dock for iPod shuffle	B
Pacific Rim Technologies iCradle	B
PodHolder	B
PodStand	B
Pressure Drop DecoDock for iPod shuffle	B
Speck Products Shuffle Dock	B
Westshore Craftworks iDockCover	B
DVBaseLtd DVBase	B-
JP's/Pods Plus Charger/Hotsync shuffle	B-
Thought Out iPad	B-
Power Support Metal Gear Simple Stand	C+
BookEndz iPodDock	C
DLO USB Dock Cable for iPod shuffle	C
iPodCradle	C
JP's/Pods Plus Dock with Video Out	C

Stickers, Guards, and Film

Frontfield iPoDonut Wheel Protector	A-
iSkin Wheel Cap	A-
Power Support Crystal Film Screen Prot.	A-
Power Support 3D Wheel Film	A-
Tunewear Poptune for iPod shuffle	A-
JAVOScreen	B+
Hewlett-Packard Printable Tattoos	B
Power Support Wheel Film	B
MacSkinz Podskinz	B
Shufflesome Stickers for iPod shuffle	B
Tatuz International Tatuz for iPod shuffle	B
Mobile Juice Shuffle Art	B-
Tunewear Poptune Stickers for iPod mini	B-
SkinEFX iPod Stickers	C+
Capdase SkinGuard Stickers for shuffle	C

Understanding our Ratings

Though we'd make a lot of companies happy if we only said nice things about products, we try to present as much of the iPod spectrum as we can: the good, the bad, and the ugly. By looking at the tables on the past three pages, you can get a sense of where we think specific add-ons rank relative to each other. Our letter grade Ratings below break down into excellent, good, okay, and bad marks, with two ratings (D- and F) reserved for products with serious or dangerous defects.

- A

A grades are awarded to only the very best products - ones that we **highly recommend**. We've awarded 38 flat A grades since we started the site in 2001 - the top 7.5% of all products, and ones that we think are superb across the board. An A- grade indicates one or two small deficiencies that limit a product's universal appeal. What about A+? Even the original iPod didn't receive an A+ grade from iLounge. We haven't awarded one yet, and may never do so.
- B

B+ and B grades are awarded to very good and good products - ones that we **recommend** to large but specific audiences. At the flat B level, we consider a product to be one that we would tell our friends are worth considering, with some modest caveats. A B- grade indicates a product that has a few medium to large issues that crimp its appeal, and qualifies for our **limited recommendation**. We recommend a B- product only to a niche of people who really need its functionality.
- C

C graded products are "okay" ones that we **neither recommend nor dislike**. They perform all of their stated functions acceptably, but may not be attractively designed, well thought out, or appropriately priced. A C+ grade indicates that the product was a little bit better than okay, but still not "good" or "recommendable." The C- grade indicates that the product was on the edge of being bad, and though it worked substantially as promised, possessed some serious design issues.
- D

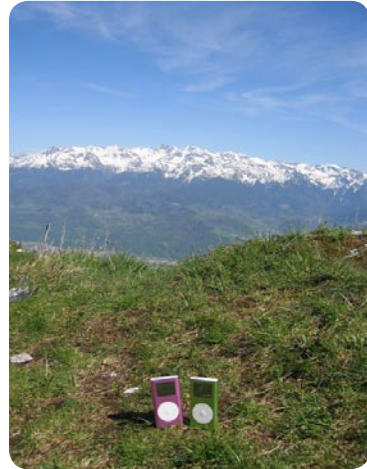
D graded products are ones that we **actively disliked** for some reason. This doesn't happen often, and it has nothing to do with the manufacturer or vendor except for the choices made in designing and selling the product. Typically, the reason is that the product possessed such substantially below- average design, performance or pricing that it was nearly laughable by comparison to other available offerings.
- D-

Under iLounge's policy on defective and dangerous products, any product graded with a D- was **defective** in some substantial way when we tested it, or subsequently revealed to be defective based on substantial reader input or manufacturer admission. Since most of the products we review are from major manufacturers who test their products prior to shipments, relatively few products qualify for this rating. However, problem products continue to slip through the cracks, so be careful.
- F

F graded products were **potentially dangerous** when we tested them. Under our policy on defective and dangerous products, we only award a grade of F if a product contains a defect that could seriously damage itself, the attached iPod, or the purchaser. Examples of products that have received F grades include power chargers that do not properly regulate power going to the iPod's electronic components, and a stereo that could burst its batteries when connected to both battery and AC power. For obvious reasons, not many iPod accessories quality for F ratings.

Review grades are provided only as a convenient summary of the comprehensive reviews we publish online. The complete archive of reviews for all of the products above is available on our Reviews page (ilounge.com/index.php/reviews/). We also spotlight new reviews on our main page several times each week, and with only limited exceptions, make an effort to review products by as many different accessory makers as possible. Please address any questions regarding our reviews to jeremy@ilounge.com.

iLounge Photo and Art Galleries



Fort St. Eynar, Grenoble, France



Great Wall, Huang Hua, China



Kailash Mountain, Tibet

These are the iPod galleries that started it all: iLounge's iPods Around the World photo galleries today contain over 3,600 photographs submitted by readers from all over the planet. For this issue, we've divided up some of our favorite new shots into three pages. Take a look at these great shots, then come and submit your pictures to gallery.ilounge.com!

iPods Around the World:
Over 3,600 photos: now's your turn!



Parthenon, Athens, Greece



Trengganu, Malaysia

XPlay[®] 2

The ultimate iPod[®] add-on for Windows.



Got 98SE or Me?
If so, XPlay is required to make iPod work!
Makes iPod great with Windows 2000 and XP, too.

- ✓ Copy music *off* any iPod
- ✓ Recover lost songs
- ✓ Manage music *easily*
- ✓ Transfer WMA songs*
- ✓ Share your iPod with both PCs *and* Macs
- ✓ Try it free at mediafour.com/ilounge



6isolator[™] earphones

- Designed for the electronics of Apple iPods[®]
- Highly accurate music reproduction with enhanced bass
- Exceptional noise isolation
- In-the-ear secure fit

The clarity will reveal layers of your favorite songs you've never heard before.

www.etymotic.com



Mormon Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah



Saifukuji, Saitama-prefecture, Japan



Harding Icefield, Alaska, USA



Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, USA



Alberobello, Puglia, Italy



Tuk, at Arctic Ocean, Canada



Fox Glacier, New Zealand



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www.peachpit.com



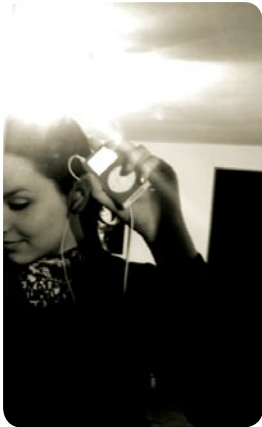
At Moses' Burial Site, Mt. Nebo, Jordan



Two in a Mini Cooper, Virginia, USA



Cannes Film Festival, Cannes, France



Dancing in Germany



On a Field Trip to Hungary from Budapest



At Tatoosh, Private Yacht of Paul Allen, Founder of Microsoft, Docked in Tahiti



At Pizza Hut, Changsha, China

Guide Contest iPod World Flags Top Submissions

To encourage as many entrants as possible from around the world, we made this issue's contest easy: creatively depict your country's flag with an iPod. These were the top entries we selected from a larger pool.



First Place Winner
Anna Maria - Germany
Prize: Apple Mac mini computer
and Shure E5c earphones



Second Place Winner

L. Renee Nelson - USA

Prize: One set of Shure E4c earphones plus a \$25 iTunes Gift Card.



Third Place Winner (Random Drawing)

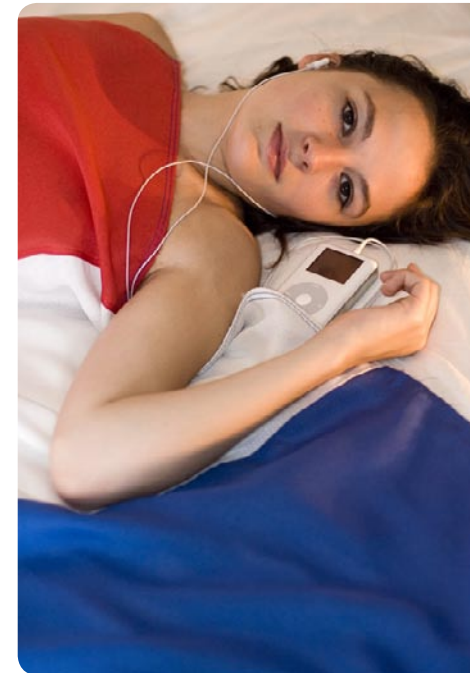
Mexico

Prize: Shure E3c earphones

contest sponsored in part by

SHURE

Countries of origin, clockwise from upper right:
Puerto Rico, United States, Switzerland,
Estonia, Canada, and Netherlands





Countries of origin, clockwise from upper right:
Canada, Switzerland, Israel, Puerto Rico,
Brazil, Peru, United States



Countries of origin, clockwise from upper right:
Portugal, Dominican Republic, Wales (U.K.), Indonesia,
Netherlands, United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico





101 iTunes Tips

Apple's free iPod software keeps most of its powerful features hidden. Our bite-sized tips help you learn at your own pace.

Sponsored by

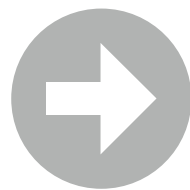


Search for iPod Trivia Contest

Inside the next section, you'll find 27 trivia questions on the history of the iPod: some easy, some tough. Need help? Search iLounge's stories, photo galleries, and forums. Then submit your answers using the form at ilounge.com/trivia/. Three winners will receive **Klipsch iFi speaker systems** (retail value: \$399.99).

Rules:

Three iFi systems will be awarded, courtesy of Klipsch. Winners will be selected from all entries based on the highest number of correct answers. In the event of a tie, a random selection process will be used to select a winner or winners from the pool of tied entrants. Contest ends September 15, 2005 at 11:59pm. iLounge reserves the right to disqualify any and all entrants found to have encouraged or participated in cheating, and to change these rules at any time, for any reason. For a complete list of rules, please visit ilounge.com/trivia/.



101 iTunes Tips

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101 iTunes Tips is full of concise and fun tips meant to make your experience with Apple's digital music duo easier, faster, and better. It's a full book, in digestible pieces.

Yes, it would have been easy to create a boring list of all of iTunes' features and walk through them like a manual. But no one wants to read another manual. So we focused on issues people ask us about all the time. And provide informal, jargon-free answers: just what we'd tell a friend.

We started writing with one tip criterion: if it can't enhance the way you use the iPod and iTunes, it shouldn't be in here. Some of these tips may help make your experience more efficient, while others may show you completely new ways to use these great products. And some of them are fairly basic, while others appeal to the power user.

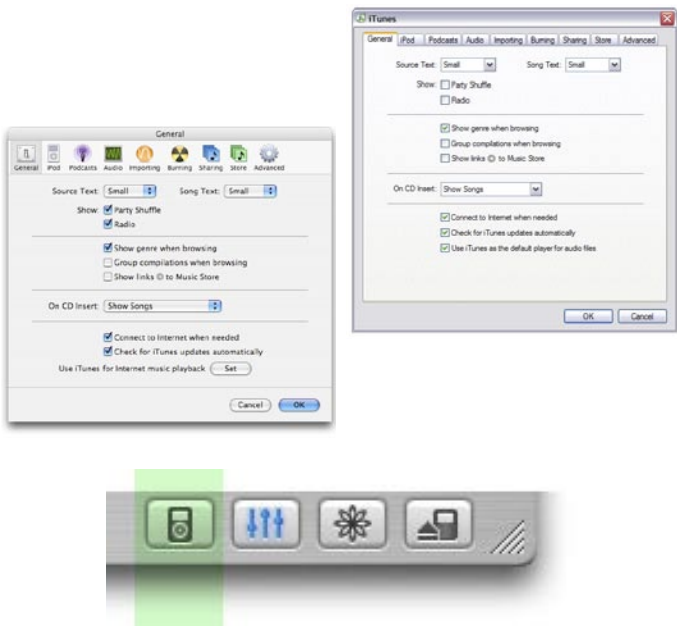
Our hope is that reading this guide will arm you with good advice that you'll use on a daily basis, or whenever you play with iTunes. Maybe you'll even consider yourself a power user when you're done!



The Importance of iTunes Preferences

Throughout these tips, the second most important screen in all of iTunes is the **Preferences** window. Because it wants to keep the main iTunes screen simple and easy, Apple hides almost all of iTunes' most powerful features under various "Tabs" in **Preferences**. To access **Preferences** on a PC, go to the top of the window, select **Edit**, and find **Preferences** near the bottom. You can also hold the Control key and hit the Comma key (,) to bring it up automatically. On a Mac, **Preferences** is under the iTunes menu option, or just hit Command and Comma.

There's one other way to get into **Preferences**, as well. When an iPod's connected to your computer, the collection of three icons on the bottom right side of the iTunes window grows to four. The first icon, an iPod, will automatically bring up the **Preferences** window, highlighting the **iPod Tab** at the top. As of today, there are nine Tabs: General, iPod, Podcasts, Audio, Importing, Burning, Sharing, Store, and Advanced. We'll discuss them all inside.



Quickly clear searches

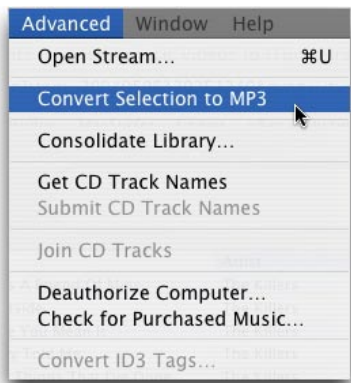
The **Search** field, located in the upper right-hand corner of the iTunes window, is a great way to find music efficiently. Did you know there is a way to make the searching process even more efficient? Instead of highlighting the text in the Search field and then pressing Delete, all you need to do is click the little grey "X" button on the right side of the field. This clears whatever text is in the field, allowing you to quickly return to your full Library view or start another search.



Turn videos into songs

We've already shown you that it's possible to save music videos from the iTunes Music Store. Here's how to extract the audio from one of those videos so you can listen to it as a track in iTunes or transfer it to your iPod. Just drag a video into the main iTunes window, select it and go to the top of your Mac's screen or PC's window, finding **Advanced**. Pick **Convert Selection to MP3** (or another format, see the tip **Choosing Your Song Format**). The audio quality isn't even close to that of a song ripped directly from CD or purchased from the iTunes Music Store, but, hey, it's free. You'll also have to set your tags, such as Artist and Album manually after you're done.

Don't abuse this feature by ripping and sharing music. And don't expect it to stay a part of future iTunes versions, either.



iTunes Mini Player

You've heard of the iPod mini and Mac mini - this is iTunes Mini. If you're tight on screen real estate, you can shrink iTunes down two sizes. On a Mac, click the **green zoom control button** in the top-left corner of the application. On a PC, hit **Control-M**. Gone are your Source and Song lists, replaced with a small control window with only Play/Pause, Next/Fast Forward and Previous/Rewind buttons, a volume slider and a status display.

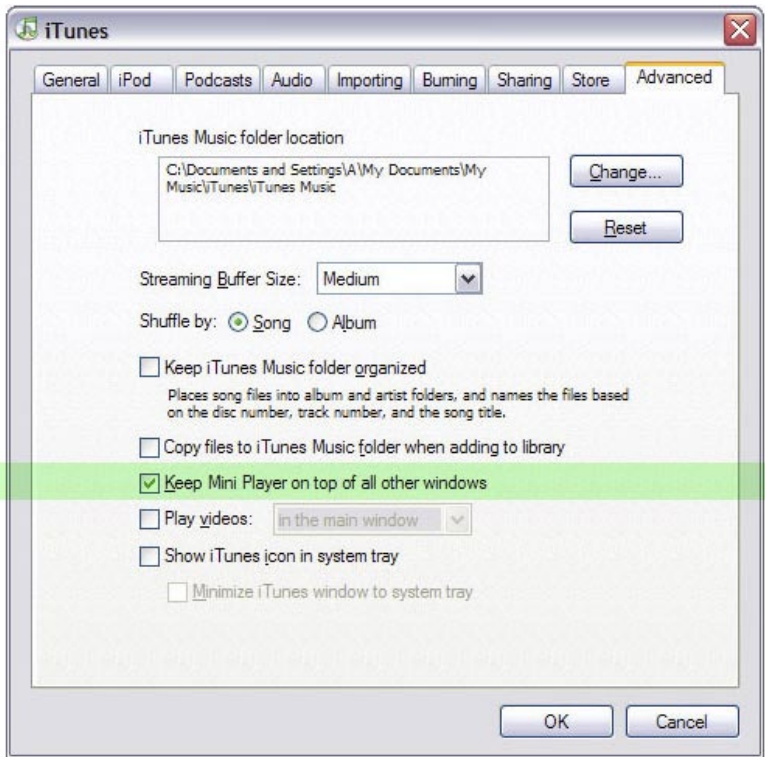


And if the Tunes Mini Player isn't small enough for you, you can go smaller. Just **click and drag the bottom-right edge** of the iTunes mini window a tad to the left and you will be greeted by this even smaller version of iTunes Mini. Since it lacks a screen, we'd call it iTunes shuffle, but there's no shuffle button. Maybe in iTunes 5?



Maximizing the Mini Player

If you like the functionality of iTunes Mini, but hate digging through open windows to find your little pal, this tip is for you. There is an option buried deep within iTunes that keeps iTunes on top of other windows. Go to the **Preferences** (iTunes > **Preferences** on Mac, Edit > **Preferences** on PC) window and select the **Advanced Tab**. If you look near the bottom of the window, you'll see a check box setting for **Keep Mini Player on top of all other windows**. Check this, and you'll never have to go looking for your iTunes controls again.

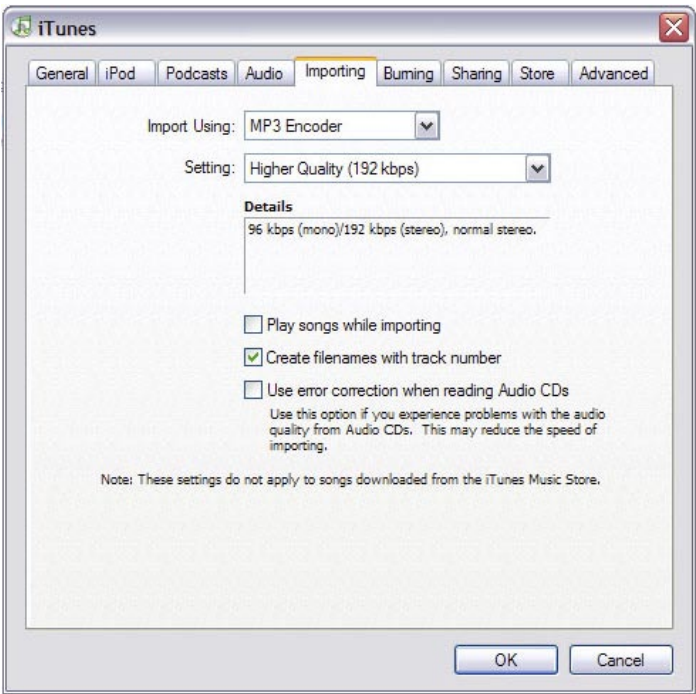


Choosing your song format

You already know that iTunes is a digital jukebox - but did you know that iTunes can play different formats of music? This tip provides detailed recommendations on the right format to use for converting your CDs.

Since April of 2003, the Advanced Audio Codec (AAC for short, part of the MPEG-4 compression standard) has been Apple's default for encoding music with iTunes. Other options are still available under the **Preferences** window, under the **Importing Tab**. Apart from AAC, you can also choose MP3, AIFF, WAV, and Apple Lossless. While you're on this screen, we also recommend unchecking **Play songs while importing**, due to its adverse affect on importing speed - CD rips will take 25-50 times longer, depending on your CD drive.

Different formats have different benefits, so we discuss them all below. For reference purposes, we'll show you the file size of U2's "Vertigo" encoded in each format, at our recommended settings.



MP3 – Recommended setting: Higher Quality (192 kbps). MP3 is the most popular of the compressed music formats, but it's old, and requires more disk space to get equal sound quality compared to AAC. However, unlike AAC, it is compatible with most non-iPod music players, and is also compatible with virtually all home and car stereos that natively support playback of compressed digital music. We recommend MP3 if you are concerned with compatibility with various players, and aren't worried about storage size. Vertigo size: 4.5MB.

AAC – Recommended setting: at least High Quality (128 kbps). This is the same quality and format that Apple uses for songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store. However, the iPod is the only major portable music player it will work with, and it's currently incompatible with many home stereo conduits such as TiVo's Home Media option. If you've gone iPod and iTunes, plan never to switch, and want small files, use this format because of its small size and its quality. Otherwise, go with MP3. Vertigo size: 3.1MB.

AIFF – Recommended setting: Automatic. AIFF is an uncompressed format, so it produces extremely large but detailed files. It was developed by Apple, and is compatible with most iPods (except the iPod shuffle), but don't expect other music players to support it. Moreover, Apple's newer Lossless Codec sounds just the same and consumes less space, so we really don't have any reason to recommend it. Vertigo size: 32.8MB.

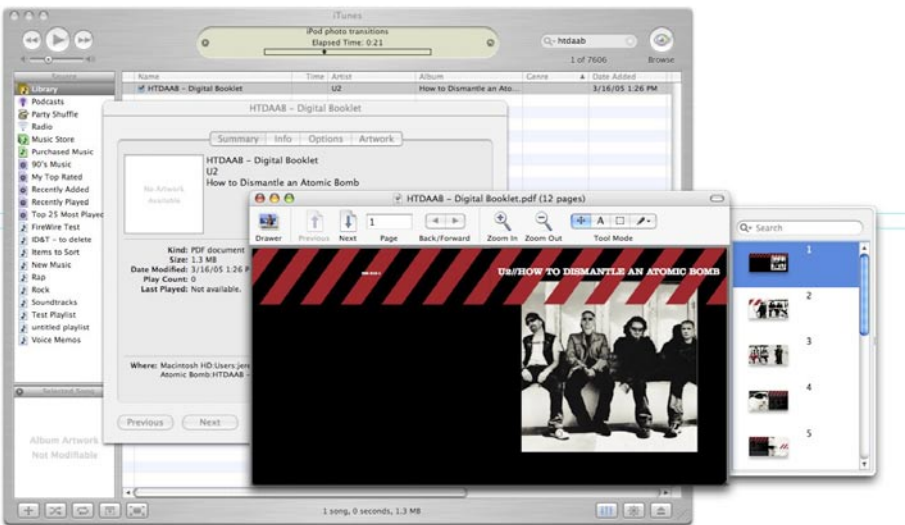
WAV – Recommended setting: Automatic. WAV is another uncompressed format, but was developed by Microsoft. It produces files comparable in quality and size to AIFF, but they play on more devices. Consider WAV only if you need literally perfect CD rips and will use them on non-Apple products. Vertigo size: 32.8MB.

Apple Lossless – Recommended setting: Automatic. Apple Lossless Codec was introduced by Apple in 2004. It provides quality similar to AIFF and WAV, but the files it produces are about 2/3 the size of AIFF or WAV. It is compatible only with Apple products. Use this if you are really concerned about quality and aren't worried about storage size. Vertigo size: 23.6MB.

Ultimately, the choice is up to you. We feel safest recommending the MP3 format, because it's close to future-proof: almost everything supports it. MP3 format files at 192-224 kbps are similarly close to future-proof, since they'll sound good no matter what hardware, software, or accessories you decide to use in the future. But many people use 128kbps MP3s because they sound fine through Apple's packed-in earbuds, and because they take up less space than larger files. Who uses AIFF, WAV, or Apple Lossless? Relatively few people; those who are obsessed with audio quality and have sophisticated speakers or headphones (typically \$400 and up) capable of clearly showing imperfections in compressed audio.

Add PDFs to your Library

Starting with iTunes 4.7, Apple enabled iTunes to store Adobe PDF documents - the same digital document format you're reading right now. While Apple uses the PDF format to create the "Digital Booklets" it sells with albums, you can add any PDF document you want into iTunes by **dragging and dropping it from your PC or Mac's desktop**. Double-clicking on it in iTunes will open a separate viewer program.



Smart Playlists

Smart Playlists are one of the best features in iTunes, especially if you have a large library of music. Instead of forcing you to sift through and manually choose songs, Smart Playlists let you choose conditions for the automatic selection of songs, and also allow you to limit their size to a certain number of songs or storage space. These conditions can be combined to create interesting mixes of songs, or to target a specific type of song. By default, iTunes comes with five pre-made Smart Playlists - 90's Music, My Top Rated, Recently Added, Recently Played, and Top 25 Most Played. To get specifics on these, go to the top of your screen on Mac or window in Windows, and find **File**. Pick **Get Info**, or use the Mac Command-I keyboard shortcut, or PC Control-I keyboard shortcut.

Here's a practical example of how a Smart Playlist can be built. You're throwing a 60's-themed party from 7PM-11PM, and only want good songs that are relatively short and upbeat. You could pick all these by songs by hand and try to make sure the Playlist is about four hours long, or you could take three minutes to set up a Smart Playlist to do it for you. Here are the steps:

1. Go back to **File** and choose **New Smart Playlist** (or use the Option-Command-N Mac / Control-Alt-N PC shortcut).
2. Start by setting the first parameter to **Year**, and select a range of 1960 to 1969.
3. Click the + button to add another parameter.
4. Set this new parameter to **My Rating**, and select a range of 4 stars to 5 stars.
5. Click the + button once more.
6. Set this last parameter to **Time**, and select a range of 2:00 to 4:00.
7. To limit the time, **click the first box next to the Limit parameter**, change the songs tag to **time**, and enter 4 hours.

If done correctly, your screen should look like the example on the next page.

2

Which option can't be chosen from the main menus of fully updated 1st-generation iPods?
A. Playlists B. Voice memos C. Extras D. Settings



Not only is this a quick and easy way to create specific Playlists, but the Playlist remains dynamic - meaning that it will automatically update itself as you add more music to your Library and edit your ratings. You can use these parameters to create all kinds of custom Playlists, and they're a great tool for selecting content to go onto your iPod. The only hitch: you'll need to have properly tagged and rated music, so do your best.

See videos and more in iTunes' bottom left corner

If you've read the earlier tutorials in this Guide, you already know that you can add album artwork to iTunes for viewing on color-screened iPods. But the latest versions of iTunes are actually capable of more.

If the bottom left of your iTunes window is nothing more than the bottom of your Source list, click the **Artwork** button - fourth from the left - or the use the Mac Command-G / PC Control-G keyboard shortcut. A small window will appear.

If you've downloaded a music video from Apple, it can play in this spot - go to iTunes' **Preferences** window, **Advanced Tab**, pick **In The Main Window**, and click **OK**. Any video clip in your library will play here; clicking on the video will open up a larger playback window on your screen.

You can also drag and drop your own movies into iTunes, and watch them here. But if your library only contains audio files, this window will show album artwork or nothing at all.



Creating On-The-Go Playlists for editing in iTunes

All screened iPods since the third-generation iPod can create their own Playlists. They're called On-The-Go Playlists, a feature perfect for people who don't have time to create Playlists when they're using their computers, but have time to use their iPods.

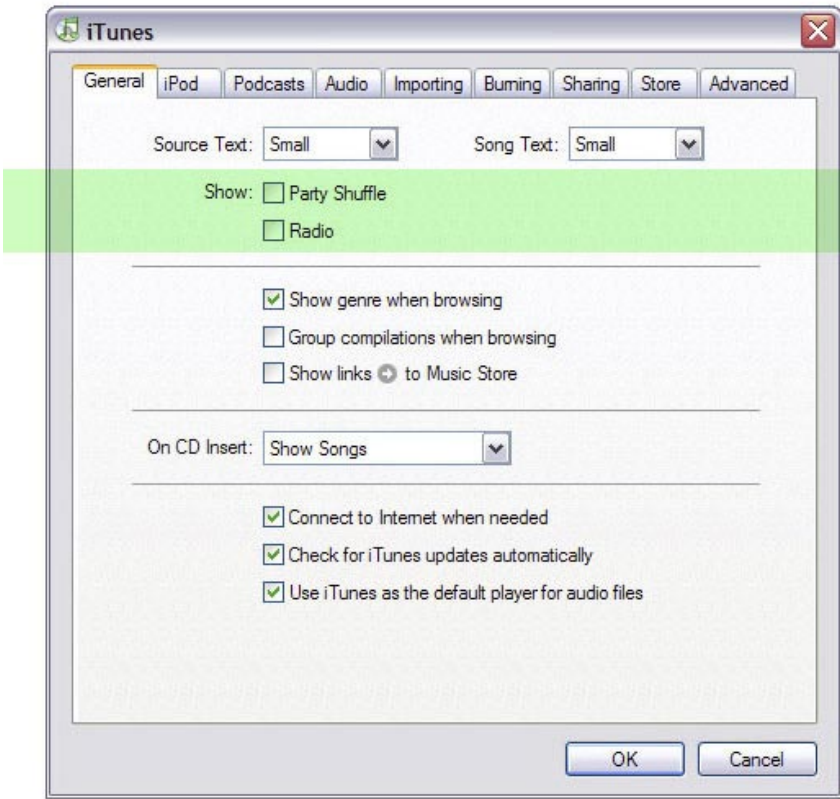
To add any song to your On-The-Go Playlist, simply scroll to the song you want and hold the iPod's center Action button until the song flashes. This method also works for adding entire Playlists, Artists, Albums, Genres, Composers, and Audiobooks to the On-The-Go list.

You can find your On-The-Go Playlist by navigating to **Music > Playlists > On-The-Go** on your iPod, and can even listen to it while you continue to add songs. To delete a song from your On-The-Go Playlist, **highlight the song** while viewing the list, then **press and hold Select** until the song flashes. When you release the Select button, the song will be deleted. To clear the whole list, scroll to its bottom and select **Clear Playlists**. This next screen gives you a last chance to hit **Cancel** or **Clear Playlist** to go ahead and finish the deed. But keep your imperfect lists - you can open them later in iTunes and edit them to perfection. Make sure to rename them for easier reference.



Get rid of Party Shuffle and Radio

If you don't ever use Party Shuffle or the Radio stations in iTunes, you can easily remove them from your Source List. Just go to the **Preferences** window and **deselect Party Shuffle** and **Radio** in the **General Tab**. You'll eliminate clutter, and for most people, two parts of iTunes that don't get used very often. If you want to add either or both back, just go back to the **Preferences** window.



3

As of August 2005, how many songs have been sold by the iTunes Music Store?
A. 700 million B. 500 million C. 1 billion D. 800 million

Basic iTunes shortcuts

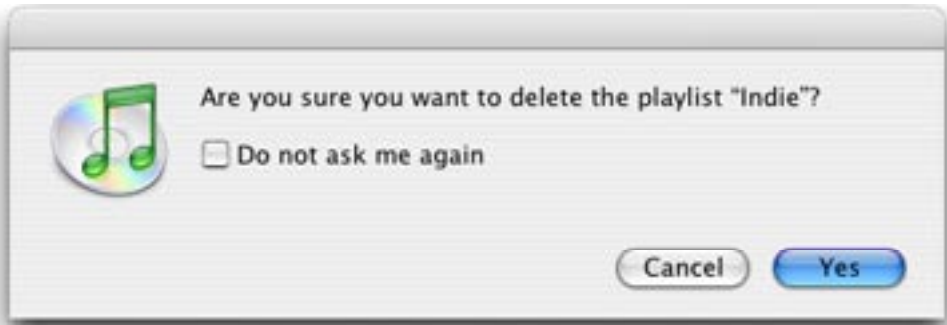
Call them geeky, but if you want to save time, you'll find these keyboard shortcuts handy. Insanely great things can be accomplished at lightning speed if you remember a few easy commands.

Action	PC Keyboard	Mac Keyboard
Play or Pause song	Space Bar	Space Bar
Play next song	Control + Right Arrow	Command + Right Arrow
Play previous song	Control + Left Arrow	Command + Left Arrow
Increase the volume	Control + Up Arrow	Command + Up Arrow
Lower the volume	Control + Down Arrow	Command + Down Arrow
Mute song	Control + Alt + Down Arrow	Command + Option + Down Arrow
Eject a CD	Control + E	Command + E
Fast-Forward	Control + Alt + Right Arrow	Command + Option + Right Arrow
Rewind	Control + Alt + Left Arrow	Command + Option + Left Arrow
Open iTunes preferences	Control + Comma (,)	Command + Comma (,)
Quit iTunes	Control + W	Command + Q
Minimize iTunes window to the Dock	Control + M	Command + M
Show or hide Artist and Album columns	Control + B	Command + B
View Visualizer window	Control + T	Command + T

Delete Playlists without warning

If you create and remove Playlists constantly, you'll find this tip handy. When you try to delete a Playlist, an annoying dialog box pops up asking you if you're sure you want to delete the Playlist. You could select the "Do not ask me again" option - our preference - but novice users will find that this isn't easy to undo later.

An alternative is to bypass the warning altogether. Highlight the Playlist, then press **Control-Delete** on the PC or **Command-Delete** on the Mac. A harder-core solution is to use **Alt-Delete** on the PC or **Option-Delete** on the Mac to remove the selected Playlist and delete all of the songs it contains from your library. You'll thank us when you've tested this on your Backstreet Boys collection.



4 Which hardware feature appeared for the first time on the third-generation iPod?
A. Click Wheel B. Hold switch C. Dock Connector D. Repeat Songs

Decoding those buttons

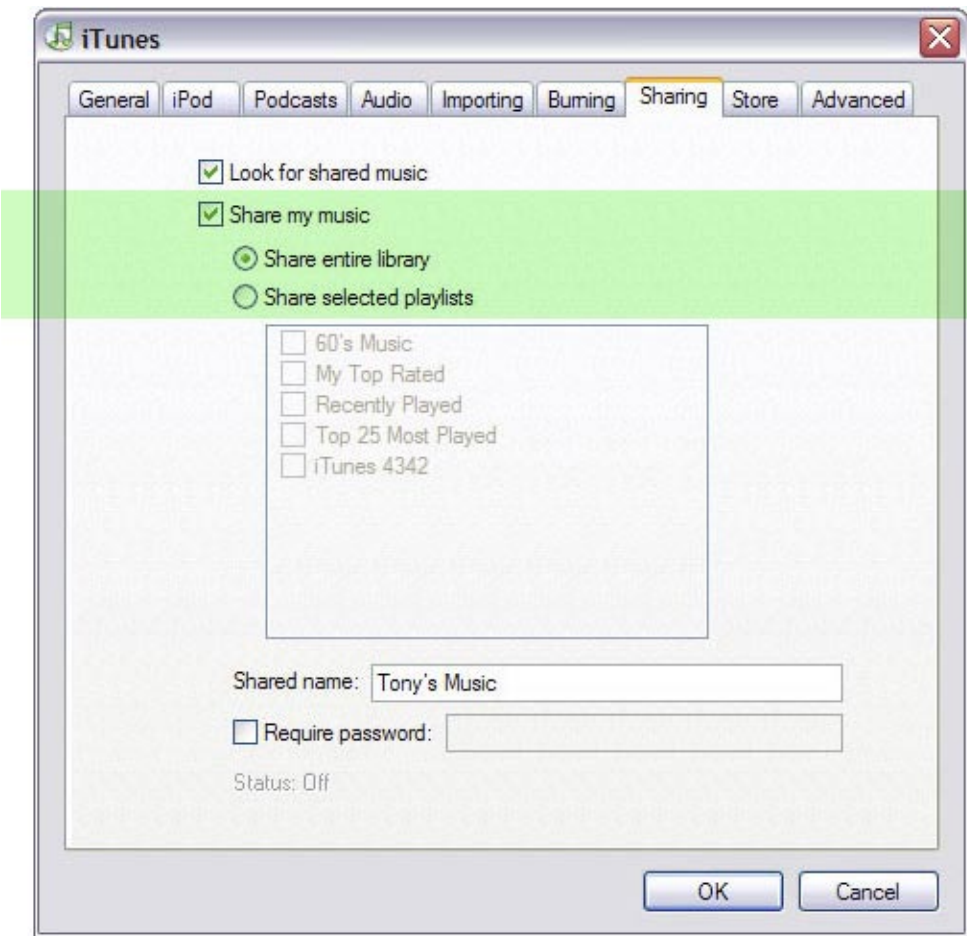
They sit there, staring at you, taunting you with their mysterious icons. What do they do? Why are they there?

The first button adds a Playlist to your Source list. Next activates Shuffle playback mode. The third turns Repeat Playlist on, or Repeat One Song (shown) if you press twice. Fourth opens and closes the Album Artwork and Video window. The fifth toggles Videos between full screen and windowed modes. Hold your cursor over any of them, and an explanation will appear in a little yellow box.



Sharing your music

Beginning with version 4.0, iTunes added an easy way to share music with others on your network. iTunes searches for shared music by default, but you must be proactive to share your own. To let other computers share your music, go to the **Preferences** window, and click the **Sharing Tab**. Then select the **Share my music** checkbox and you're off and running.



This feature is particularly useful if you have more than one computer at home, but want access to your music no matter which one you're using. Note that there is a way to Password protect your music - we'll look at it later - and also that your music is streamed to computers sharing your music. No files are copied over.

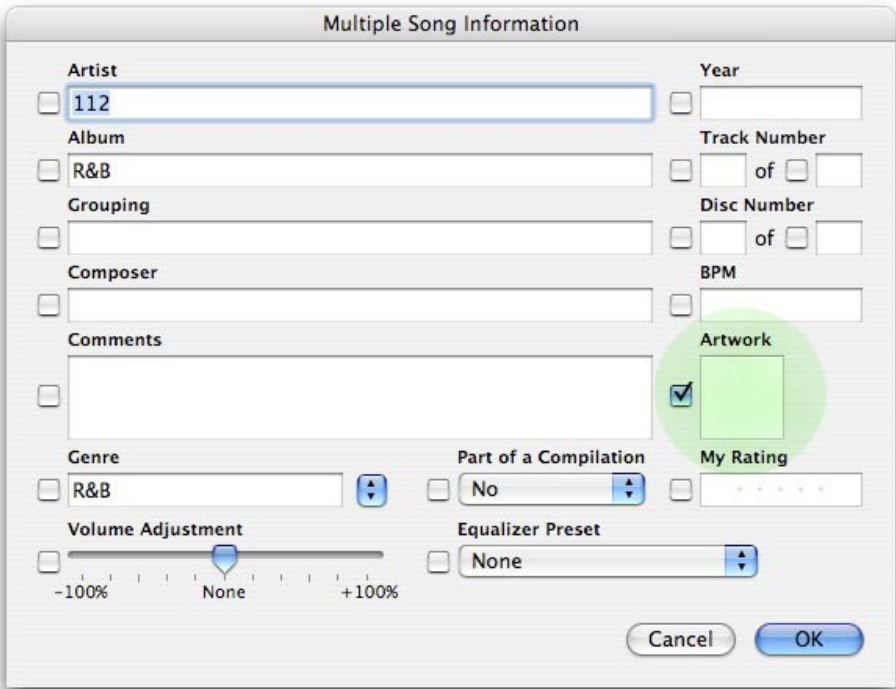
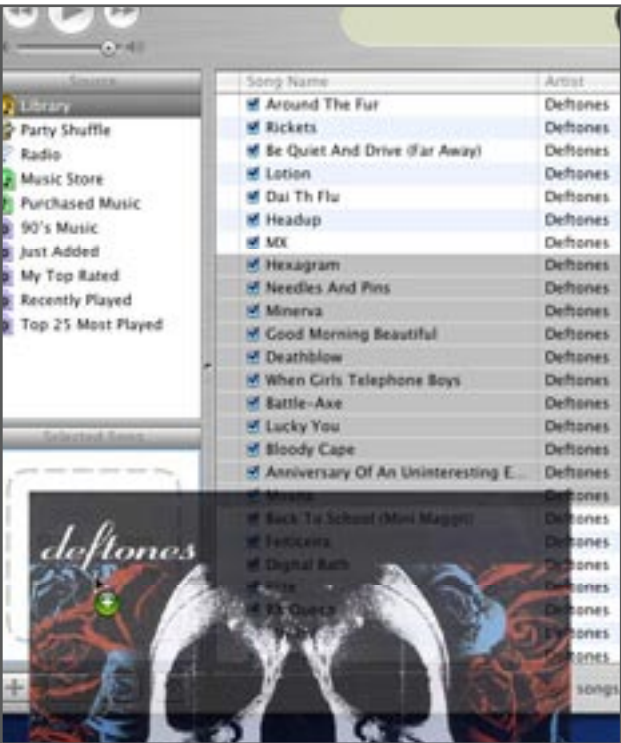
Finding Artwork to add to songs, and more

Earlier in the Guide, we explained how to add Album Artwork, but we didn't tell you where to look for it. Assuming you don't have a scanner or the ability to digitally photograph the album covers you own, we recommend Amazon.com, Walmart.com, and Google.com/images as places you can search by album name and artist.

Once you have found and saved your picture, you can add it to a whole CD's worth of songs. **Select all of the tracks in iTunes before dragging the cover over to the bottom left of the screen.** You can also copy and paste images from your clipboard.

Delete Artwork from songs

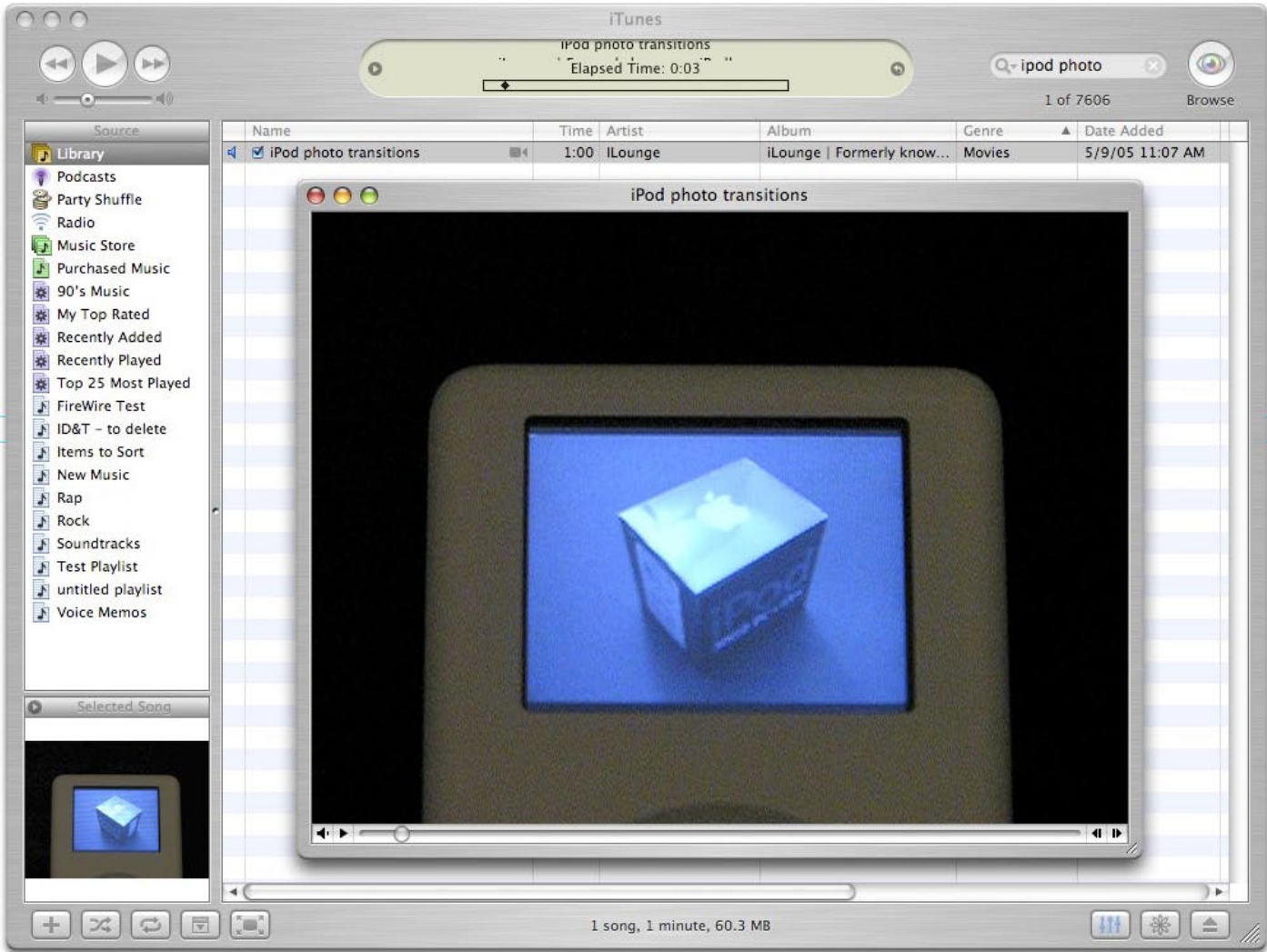
Adding Album Artwork (see previous tip) increases the file size of songs. If you're running low on space on your iPod, you might want to trash a cover from a single track. press **Control-I** on your PC / **Command-I** on your Mac, and find the **Artwork** box. Click on the Artwork once and hit **Delete**. To delete the Artwork from a group of songs, **select them**, press **Control-I** on your PC / **Command-I** on your Mac, and put a **check mark in the empty Artwork checkbox** in the right side of the Song Information window. Hit **OK** and you'll be Artwork-free. Just be careful - it'll take time to replace.



Better viewing for bigger videos

So the tiny little window in the bottom left of the screen isn't your favorite place for videos? Fair enough. Thankfully Apple agrees that a tiny screen isn't the only way movies should be enjoyed.

If you go into iTunes **Preferences**, then the **Advanced Tab**, you'll see an option called **Play videos**: with three choices. Selecting in the main window squeezes videos into the bottom left. In a separate window creates an iTunes viewer - based on the QuickTime movie player - that you can move wherever you want on the screen. Finally, picking full screen will scale the video up to take up your entire monitor. Depending on the quality of what you've selected, it might not look great when magnified.



See the secret Motorola RAZR icon (Mac)

For now, it's a secret, but in the near future, it'll probably make more sense. On the PC version of iTunes, opening up the **Preferences** window is boring: there are just a bunch of tabs and some text. But on the Mac version of iTunes, the **Preferences** window is full of cool icons, including one that was newly added for **Podcasts** - you know, the one that looks like a guy with pink radio waves coming out of his head? Well, in a twist of irony, there's a bug - some say intentional secret - in iTunes 4.9 for the Mac. If you go into OS X's **System Preferences** (under the Apple menu) and choose **Displays**, then choose **Colors > 256**, you'll notice that everything on your screen looks sort of pixelated and crummy. Perfect. Then open iTunes' **Preferences**. Instead of a guy with radio waves coming out of his head, you'll see a radio wave emitting device - what looks like a Motorola RAZR cellular phone - sitting in his place.

Since Apple is expected to add iTunes Phones to the list of devices that iTunes works with, this icon is probably going to appear under a new **Phones Tab** - iTunes' tenth - as soon as Motorola and Apple announce the release of the first phone. The companies promise that'll happen no later than the end of September, so you can enjoy this little treat until they're ready to let the news out in a bigger way.



So how big is YOUR Library?

iTunes doesn't obsess much over numbers, but it does have one tiny little display that's worth checking out. If you look at the bottom center of its window, you'll notice three numbers: Number of Songs, Time, and Storage Space used (MB or GB).

If you switch between your Library and a Playlist, you'll notice that the numbers change - the window always shows you totals for whatever portion of your collection you're viewing.

7606 songs, 22 days, 36.24 GB

See the exact play time

It's not advertised heavily, but there is a way to change the Time display. By simply **clicking on the bottom bar**, you can toggle between an abbreviated Time (1.1 hours, in our example), or Detailed Time (1:08:15 total time). This can be extremely helpful when making Playlists that need to be an exact length, such as Playlists meant for CD burning.

16 songs, 1.1 hours, 70.8 MB
songs, 1:08:15 total time,

6 Who is the only non-musician to have his or her signature engraved by Apple on iPods?
A. Albert Einstein B. Tony Hawk C. Laurence "Mr. T" Tureaud D. Madonna

Special click for Smart Playlist

If you're a power user, you usually create Smart Playlists instead of normal ones. And you already know that iTunes gives you an easy-to-use button to create normal Playlists (located at the bottom of the Source list). But did you know you can use this same button to create Smart Playlists? By **holding Option on a Mac or Shift on a PC** when going for this button, the plus symbol changes to a gear symbol. **Clicking while holding** down Option or Shift then brings up the window for you to choose the conditions for your new Smart Playlist.



Show off your EQ

You've seen the black and white Apple logo that changes to track information when you play a song. Ever wondered what **that little circle with the triangle inside** did? Not much, but click it and see. Go ahead. We're waiting. Don't want to? Okay. Clicking the button just switches the status display from song/artist/album and elapsed time to a small digital EQ meter. Be sure to share this tip with your friends.

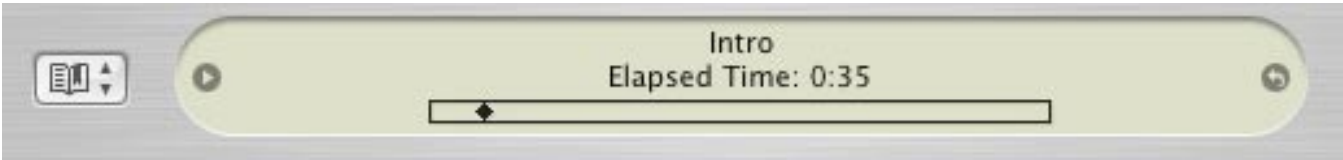


Quickly highlight the currently playing song

There are times when you'll be too mired in a search for Playlist-worthy songs to want to hunt down the song you're currently hearing. It turns out that you can always find the song you're listening to at any given moment by hitting a set of two keys at once. **PC users can hit Control-L, while Mac users should hit Command-L**. The playing song will appear in your window, highlighted, and ready for you to place wherever you desire.

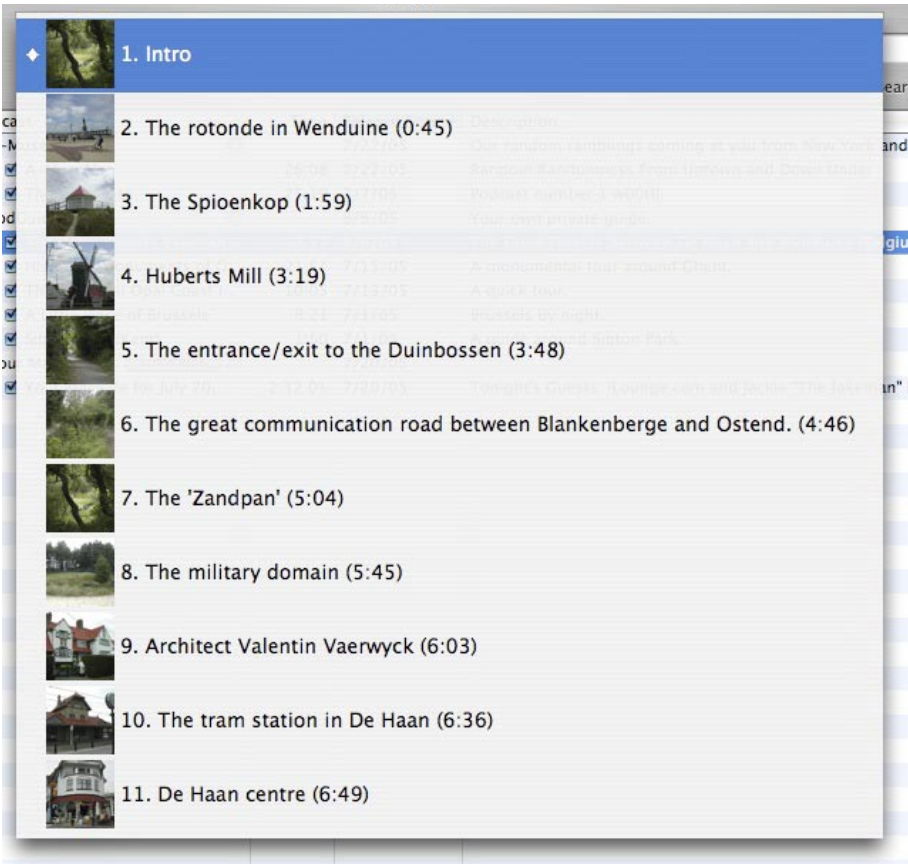
1868	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ostriches & Chirping
1869	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twilight
1870	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Passing Feeling
1871	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Last Hour
1872	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shooting Star
1873	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Memory Lane

Switching Chapters: the magical appearing button



“Wait a second. What’s that? I’ve never seen that before.” If you’ve never listened to an audiobook, you’ve probably never seen **that little button on your iTunes window before**. It’s the Chapter button, and typically enables you to move from section to section of an extended audio program. There’s no need for it in songs (unless you’re listening to medleys), but it’s sure handy to skip to a specific spot in a book.

Now other sorts of iPod files are taking advantage of Chapters, as well. Some cutting-edge podcasts are using the Chapter feature to include photographic or artistic narration for their sections. The pictures here come from a podcast by PodGuides.net, which lets people create narrative walking tours of various cities. Each picture and chapter is for a different stop on the walking tour, so you can see what you’re supposed to be seeing when you’re walking - ahead of time if you’re using iTunes and a black-and-white iPod, or during the walk if you have a color-screened iPod. We can’t wait to see what people do next with this great feature - particularly on future iPods.



Editing Tags

Having accurate Tags for your songs is key to getting the most from iTunes. You probably got most of them from iTunes, which used an Internet service called the Cddb to come as close as possible to the right details. But what do you do if the Tags from the Cddb aren’t correct, or if they aren’t there at all? And you might be asking, “Exactly what are these Tags and how do they work?” Fear not, all will be answered here.

ID3 Tags are a block of information in an audio file that describes the audio’s contents. You can edit the Tags shown in the Library window by simply clicking on the text and entering whatever you want.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquarius/Let the Sunshine I...	4:49	The 5th Dimension	The Age of Aquarius	Pop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistant Principal's Big Day	2:21	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Buffoon and the Dean o...	2:15	Adam Sandler & Conan O'Brien	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy	2:13	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Longest Pee	2:15	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Innuendo Guy	2:27	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Beating of a High Scho...	0:32	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right Field	3:12	Adam Sandler	They're All Gonna Laugh at You!	Comedy

Since you’ll often prefer to change more than one Tag for a song, there is a menu for just that purpose. It can be accessed in iTunes by selecting a song and selecting **File > Get Info** from the menu or using the Mac’s Command-I or PC’s Control-I keyboard shortcut. Once here, you need to select the **Info Tab**. Your window should then look something like this:



7

Who makes the audio processor found in current full-sized iPods?
A. Intel B. Motorola C. Wolfson Micro D. Sony

From here, you can change as many Tags as you need. But it can take a while to edit songs one by one, so if you need to change Tags for multiple songs at once, just **select the songs you want to change** and go through the same steps above (minus clicking the **Info Tab**) to bring up the window. It will look like this:



This is a simple way to fix problems such as a misspelled Album Tag or Artist or to add the Year - if missing.

iTunes, AirTunes, and icons, oh my!

Notice something different between this rack of bottom right corner icons and the ones on your version of iTunes? That little **Speakers** box only appears when you're using Apple's AirPort Express (\$129), a small white wireless device that - amongst other things - lets you pump high-fidelity versions of iTunes music directly into a home stereo, using analog or optical output.

Apple calls this feature **AirTunes**, and assuming that you have more than one pair of speakers connected to iTunes, you can control which speakers are hearing iTunes at a given moment. Unfortunately, even if you have multiple AirPort Express units connected to different sets of speakers, you can't broadcast iTunes music to more than one at once.



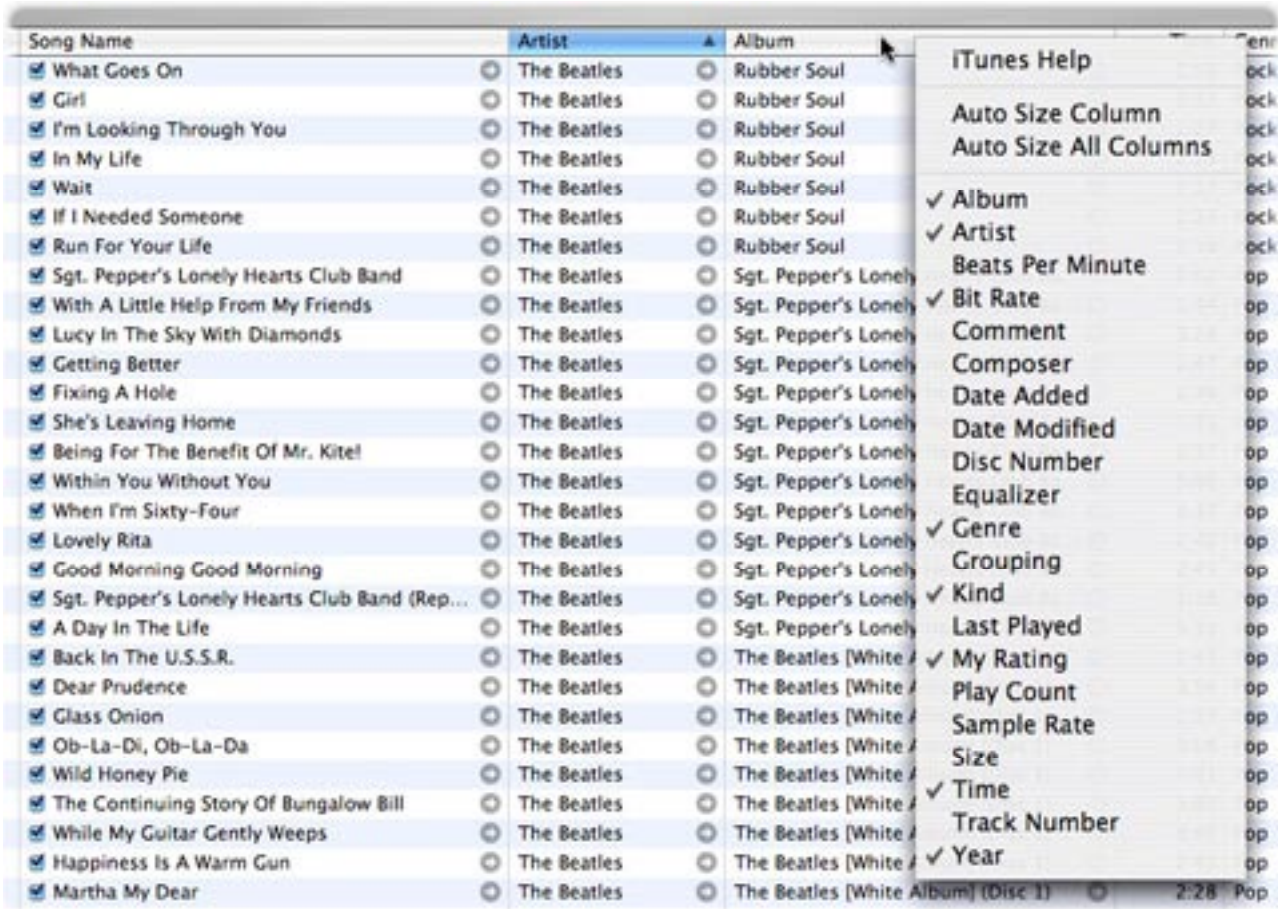
The other buttons? On the first diagram, the first icon (sliders) brings up the Equalizer, which we'll look at in a bit. Next is the Visualizer - ditto on that. And third is an eject button. It'll open your Mac or PC's CD/DVD drives so you can insert a CD, and then close them with a second button press. If you plug an iPod into your computer, an iPod icon appears to the left of these three - that brings up the **Preferences** window. And the eject icon becomes an iPod eject button instead.

Sorting your music

iTunes is a music player first and foremost, but it also acts as one of the best tools for sorting and finding your music. By default, iTunes sorts your music by Artist, but you can change this simply by **clicking on the top of one of the other columns** - by default they are Song Name, Time, Artist, Album, Genre, My Rating, and Play Count.

Song Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre	My Rating	Play Count
Ministry Of Sound 1	48:12	ATB	Ministry Of Sound	Trance	★★★	
Party Mix 2k3 NYE (Party931)	52:30	DJ Tiesto	Party Mix 2k3 NYE (Party931)	Trance		
Ministry Of Sound	52:55	MJ Cole	Ministry Of Sound			1
Hybrid - Ministry Of Sound	53:11	Hybrid	Ministry Of Sound	Trance	★★★	
Hybrid - Live At Cham Jam	54:35	Hybrid	Live At Cham Jam	Trance		
Partynight Part 2 (Radio 538)	55:39	Paul Oakenfold	Partynight (Radio 538) 04.06.2003	Trance	★★★	

You can rearrange these by **clicking their headings and dragging them right or left**, and you can add or remove them by Right Mouse Button-clicking (or Mac Control-clicking) in the heading bar.



As you can see above, you can customize this view to your listening style by adding as many sorting columns as you'd like. This is just one way iTunes' flexibility lets you enjoy your music the way you want.

One note: for whatever reason, Apple wants you to keep Song Name on the left. Although the columns can be shuffled around, the Song Name column is not movable. We're keeping our fingers crossed for an "Artist column first" option in iTunes 5.

8

Where was the first iPod introduced?

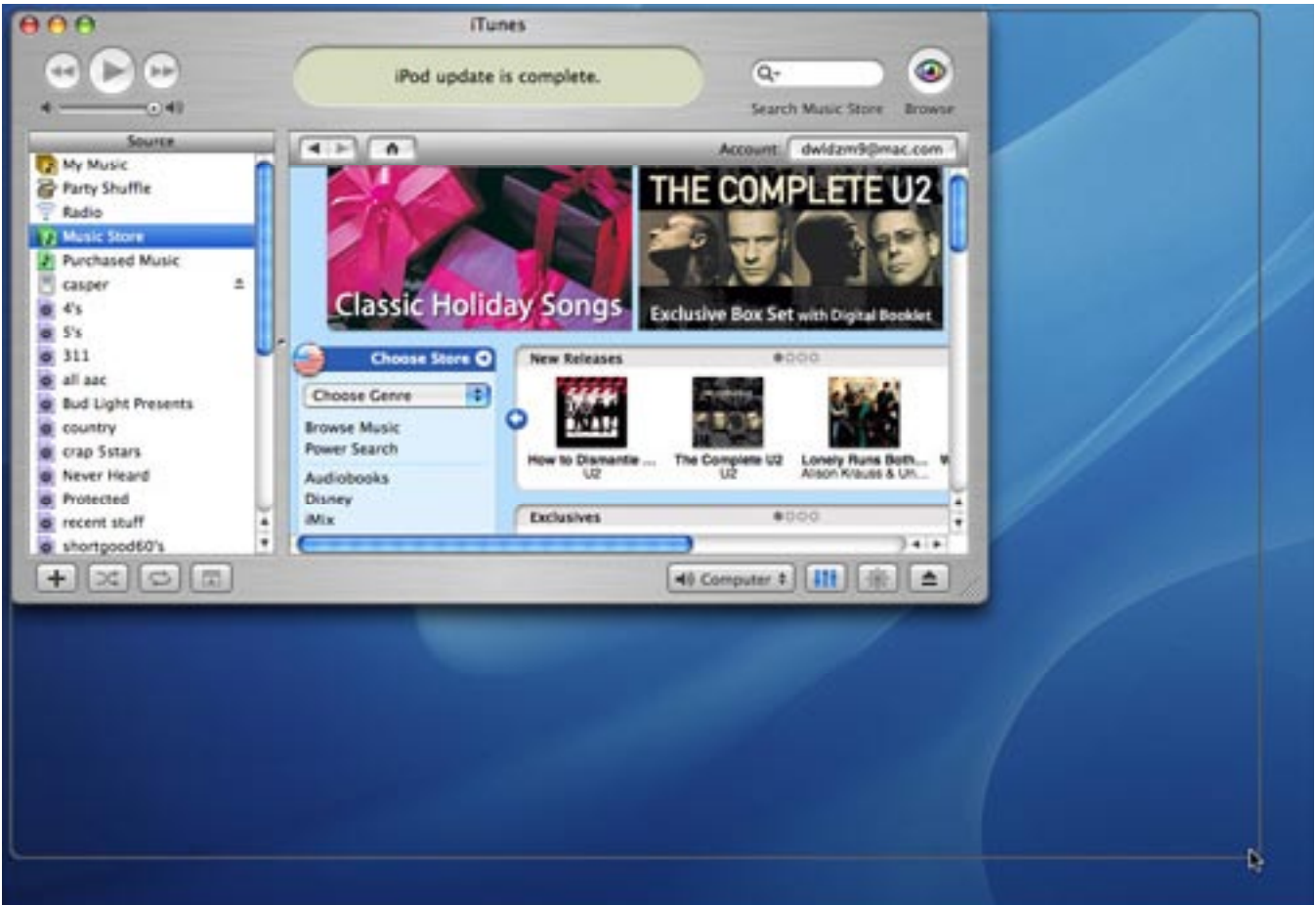
- A. Cupertino, California B. Newark, New Jersey C. Tokyo, Japan D. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Quick Playlists from selections

If you have several songs selected and need to make a Playlist from them, simply select **File > New Playlist From Selection** or use the PC Shift-Control-N or Mac Shift-Command-N keyboard shortcut. All the songs you had selected will appear in a new Playlist, ready for you to give it a name.

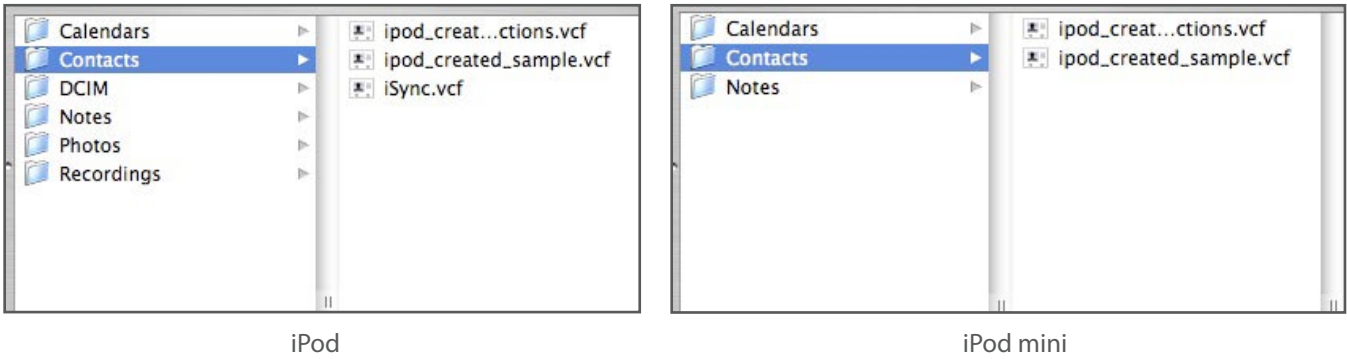
Quicker window resizing (Mac)

If you have a slower Macintosh, or if you have many applications open at once, you may notice a bit of stuttering when trying to resize the iTunes window. Fortunately, Apple realized this can be an issue and offers an easy workaround. By **holding the Mac's Command key** when you **click in the lower right-hand corner** to resize, you will be dragging an outline of the window, not the window itself. Once the outline is the size you need, let go and the window will appear resized inside the outline.



Folders on a Disk Use mode iPod

You already know about Enabling Disk Use from earlier in this Guide. But do you know what folders you'll find on an iPod with Disk Use enabled?



You should expect to see the **same three folders** on an iPod and an iPod mini: **Calendars**, **Contacts**, and **Notes**. These folders allow you to drop in your own data if you want, but as we explained earlier in the Guide, there are programs that do a better job of processing files for you. The iPod reads ICS (Apple iCal) and VCS (vCalendar) format calendar data, VCF (vCard) format Contacts, and TXT (text) format Notes. Notes can contain HTML-format links to other notes and very limited styling, but nothing sophisticated. There's also one hidden folder on the iPod called iPod_Control, containing your music and other preferences. Don't play with the contents of this folder - let our recommended third-party software programs handle the lifting for you.

Full-sized color iPods may also have three other folders. A folder called **DCIM** holds digital photographs transferred to the iPod from a device such as Apple's iPod Camera Connector. Another folder, **Photos**, contains photographs that have been formatted for the iPod using iTunes. And a folder called **Recordings** can store audio recordings made with devices such as Griffin's iTalk and Belkin's TuneTalk.

Of course, you can create your own folders on the iPod, too - that's the point of Disk mode. Just don't delete anything you find in the ones up here. And the iPod shuffle? No visible folders. Fill it however you like.

Rate on iPod, synchronize with iTunes

Rating songs in iTunes is a great way to help organize your music, but it's even better to rate songs directly from your iPod. **While playing a song, click the center button twice** (three times for color iPods) to access the rating screen. **Rotate the wheel clockwise** to raise the rating and **counter-clockwise** to lower it. Once you have the rating you want, **click the center button once more** to return to the Now Playing screen.

When you reconnect your iPod to your computer, the ratings you changed on the iPod will transfer into iTunes. This method really helps out Playlists such as the default My Top Rated, and can help you in your quest to make sure so-so music doesn't play unless specifically requested. You can change the ratings in iTunes at any time.



Create a Playlist from the Browser

If you're trying to quickly make a Playlist containing all the songs from an Artist or Genre, open the Browser (**Edit > Show Browser** or PC Control-B / Mac Command-B). Then **select the Artist or Genre you want**, and **drag it to an open area in the Source list**. You'll have a Playlist containing all of the songs in the Genre or by that Artist. Remember: if won't automatically update itself, so take the time later to create a Smart Playlist.



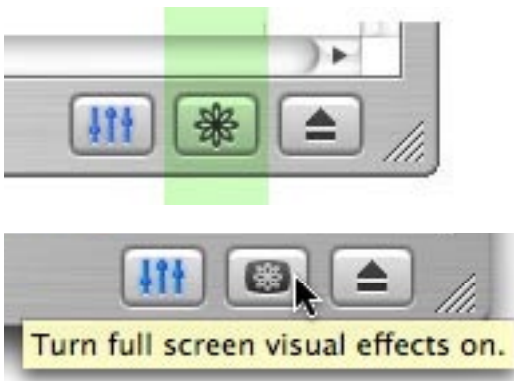
Rename the Library

Although almost all literature on iTunes refers to your music as your "Library" - but it doesn't have to be named that. In fact, you can name it pretty much anything you want. To change the name of the Library, all you have to do is **click on the name and make sure the type box comes up around it**. And you can actually rename any of the items in the Source list except "Party Shuffle," "Podcasts," "Radio," and "Music Store."



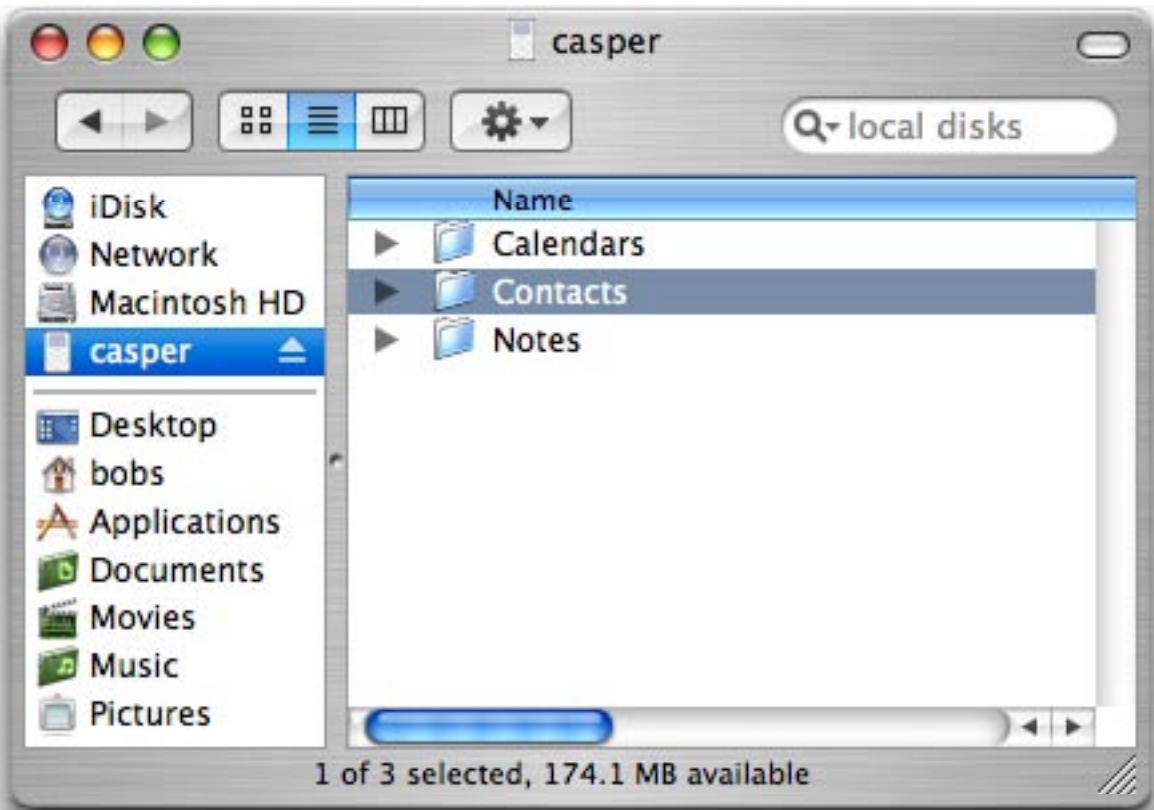
Windowed versus full screen Visualizer

Yes, there are three other buttons on the right bottom of the iTunes screen. The one in the center is the weird one. It looks like someone's splitting an atom, and Apple's not planning to add that feature to the iPod until at least 2007. Turns out that it's the **Visualizer button**. If you click on it, iTunes will show you some seriously cool fluid art in a window while your music plays. **Hold Option on a Mac or Shift on a PC** when you move towards the button, and it will change from a black flower-like symbol to the same symbol reversed out of a black screen. **Clicking while still holding Option** will send you straight to Full Screen Visualizer mode. Hitting Command-F on Mac or Control-F on a PC will flip the default setting from windowed to full-screen.



Take manual control of contacts

Your iPod is made for playing music, and it does so exceptionally well. It's also handy to have your contact information on it, and you can use the programs we've recommended to do that. But if you feel the need to copy or make a manual change to the contacts on the iPod, don't worry - there's a way. First off, you need to have **Disk Use enabled** on your iPod. Then simply **navigate to the Contacts folder** on your iPod and **remove or add any contacts** (in VCF, vCard format) that you see fit. Most programs export into VCF format. Don't forget to eject the iPod before disconnecting it, since it will be in Disk Use mode.



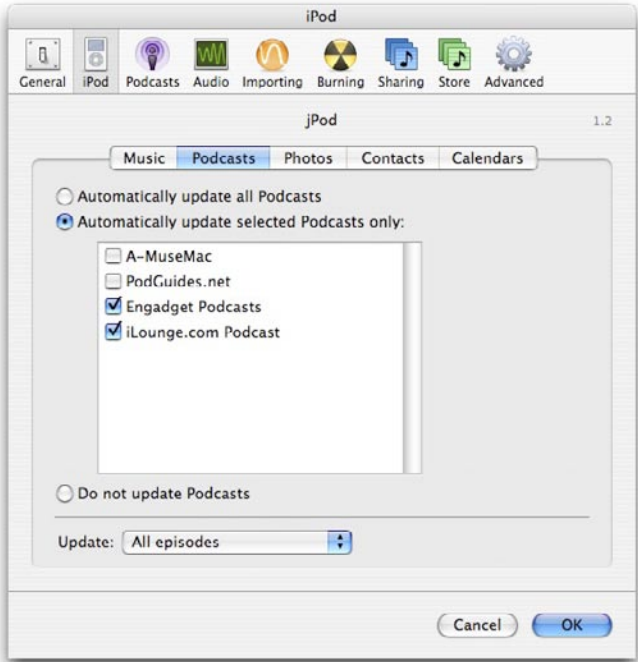
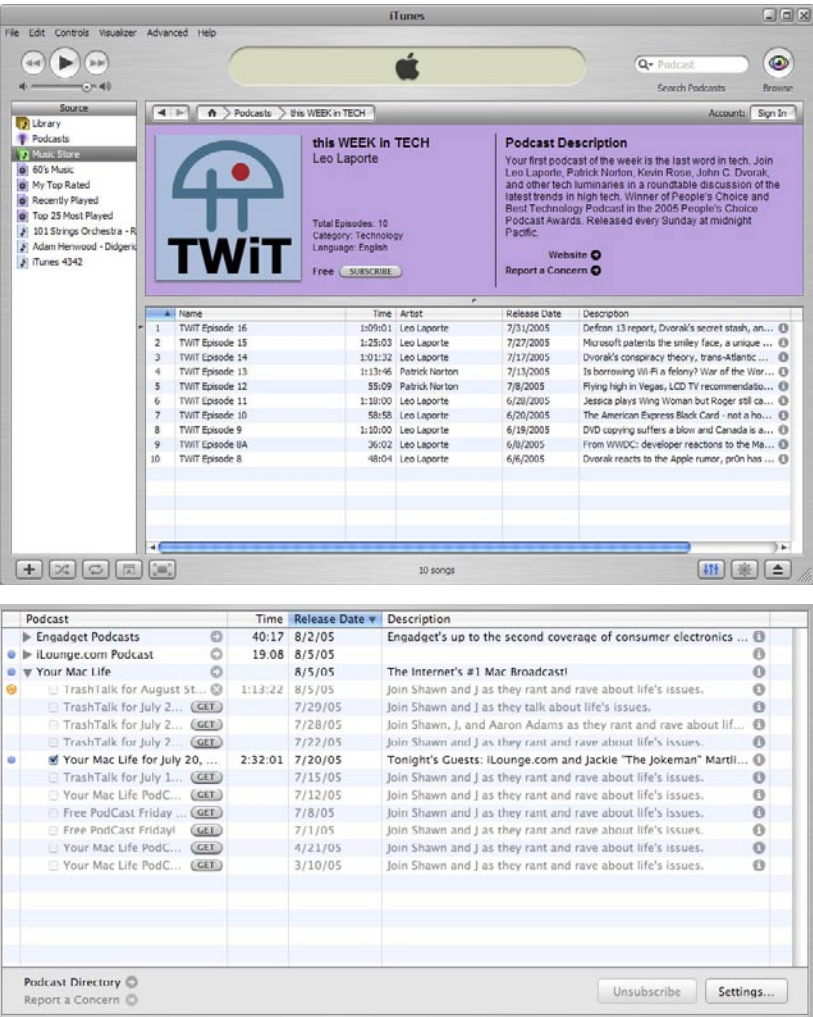
10

What was the first game to appear on an iPod?
A. Breakout (Brick) B. Music Quiz C. Solitaire D. Parachute

Podcasting: two Tabs and a microphone

Earlier in the Guide, we discussed Apple's addition of podcasting to iTunes 4.9 - it's a way for iPod owners to easily download free radio-style programs to iTunes and the iPod. Downloading podcasts one-by-one is relatively easy: go through Apple's **Podcast Directory**, located in the iTunes Music Store, find a **subject** or broadcaster of interest, and **click on the Subscribe button**. We recommend the This Week in Technology podcast, Engadget's podcast, and Your Mac Life's podcast as just a few of our favorites.

But what happens after you hit the Subscribe button? Well, that depends on - you guessed it - iTunes **Preferences** Menu. Initially, iTunes will add the podcast to your Source list, under the Podcasts icon, and will tell you that it's downloading the most recent Episode and all future Episodes. By selecting Podcasts in your Source list, you can use **Get buttons** to download older Episodes of the podcast, and each one will go from gray to black on your list as it's downloaded. You can also **unsubscribe by using a button at the bottom right of the screen**.



But the real action starts in the **Preferences** window. If you go to the **iPod Tab**, you'll notice that there's now a **header underneath it called Podcasts**. Highlight it, and you'll be able to choose how your iPod - rather than iTunes - handles podcast downloads. You can set the iPod to refresh all of its podcast content on connection, only update certain podcasts, or not update any of them. This is a handy way to avoid completely filling your iPod with radio-style programming, even if it's sitting in your iTunes Library. An update window at the bottom lets you further customize which Episodes you'll change when an iPod's connected.



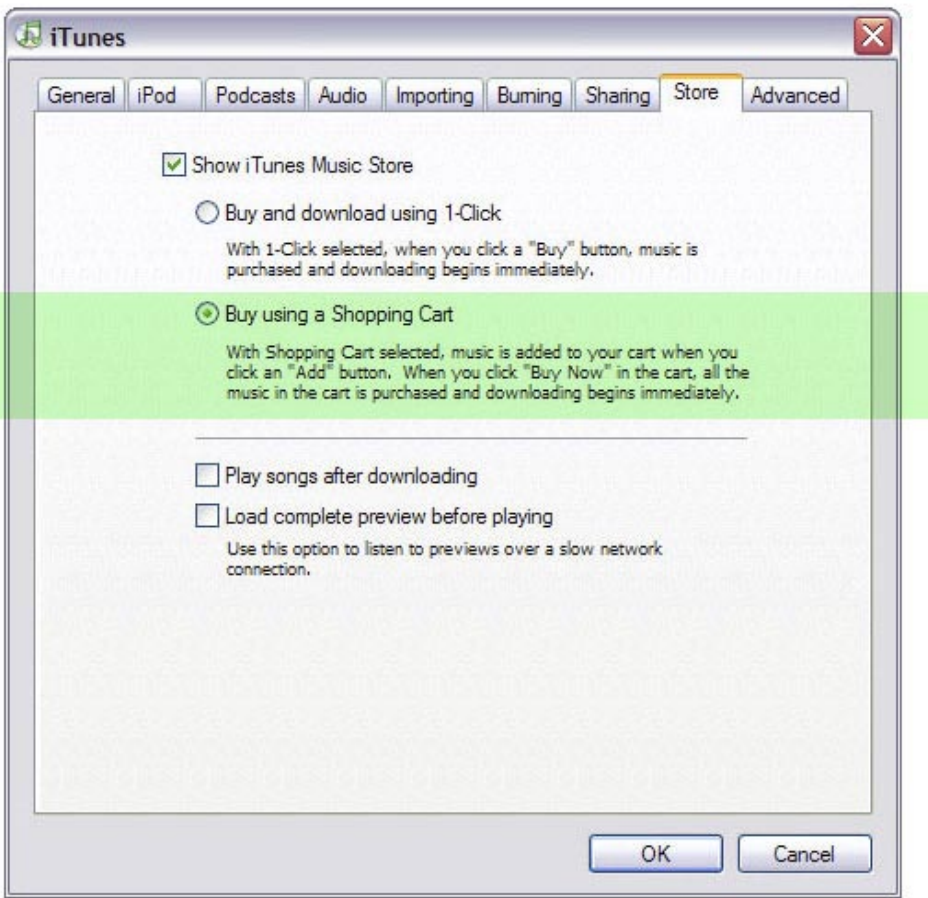
Next to the iPod Tab, you'll see a **separate Tab called Podcasts**, and tells iTunes how to handle new episodes - should it check every hour, day, or week for them? Daily is probably all that you need; you can also set this for manual checking only.

Should it download a new episode when it finds one, download all episodes it finds, or not download? We'd suggest new episodes as the best general rule.

And should it keep all of your old episodes, or delete all but the most recent 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 of them? That's your call, but we'd recommend setting this at 3 to avoid iPod clog, or not allowing it to delete anything if you think you might permanently lose a podcast that's deleted.

Cut impulse purchases at the iTunes Music Store

Saving up for that dual-2.7GHz Power Mac G5 and matching 30-inch Cinema Display? You may need to curtail your impulse buying. Here's how: disable 1-Click purchasing. Just go to the **Preferences** window and click on the **Store Tab**. Then, check the button that says **Buy using a Shopping Cart**. Now, instead of **Buy** buttons at the store, you'll have **Add** buttons that let you gather several songs or albums in a cart. This way, you can view your cart with a total price after you've loaded it up and decide rationally whether you really need the new Lindsay Lohan single, or whether she's just part of a phase you're ready to pass through.



11

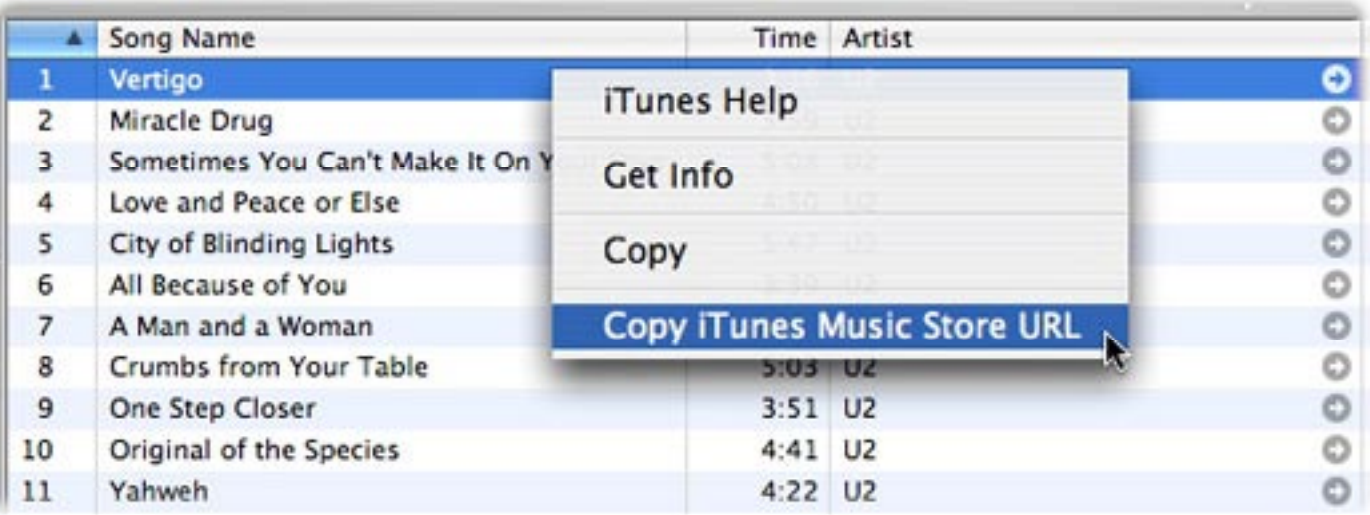
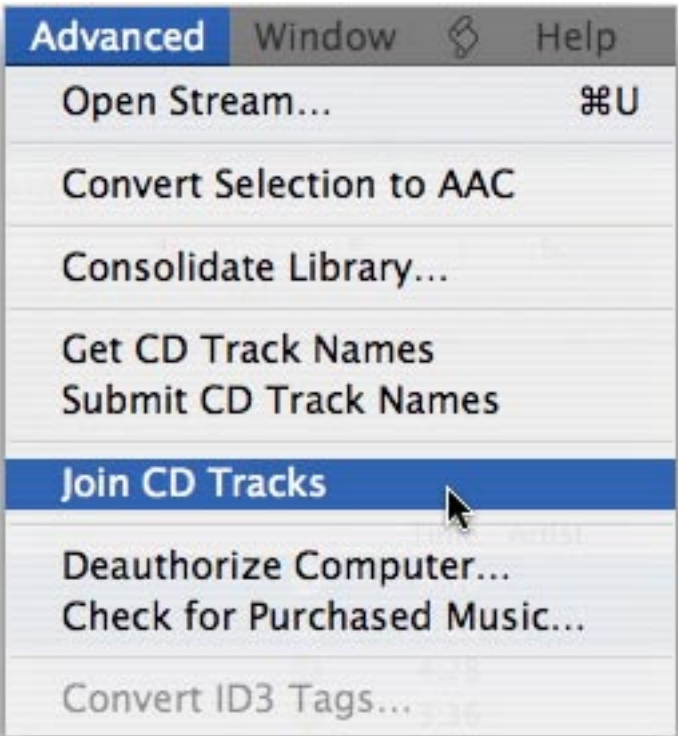
What is the last handwritten word before Bono's name on the poster included with every U2 Special Edition iPod?
A. Most B. Love C. Cheers D. Last

Joining tracks

There are times when two songs from an album just don't sound right split up - "Pantala Naga Pampa" and "Rapunzel" from Dave Matthews Band's Before These Crowded Streets come to mind - and for those times, there is a way to keep them together. Before importing the CD containing the tracks you want joined - yes, before, not after - **select the two tracks** and go to **Advanced > Join CD Tracks**. The tracks will now be imported as one song, forever keeping together intros and the tracks that follow them. But this tip won't work on files already in your library.

Creating links to the iTunes Music Store

Having a music store built right into iTunes is nice, but sometimes you want to share a discovery with someone else. That's where this tip comes in. There are three main ways to create links to the iTMS. You can sometimes - particularly on a Mac - **drag a song into an application such as Mail or Entourage**. Dropping the song creates a nice link right in your email or document leading straight back to that song. In any case, you can also create links by **right-clicking (or on Mac, Control-clicking)** a song and selecting **Copy iTunes Music Store URL**.



The URL is now ready for you to paste wherever you need it. The third way is to **use Apple's iTunes Music Store Link Maker**, found at apple.com/itunes/linkmaker/. Here you can enter the album, and/or artist to which you wish to link, then search for the right song.

12

What two colors have historically been used for the foam ear pads included with iPods?
A. Black and gray B. Black and black C. Black and green D. Black and white

Export your songs to other devices

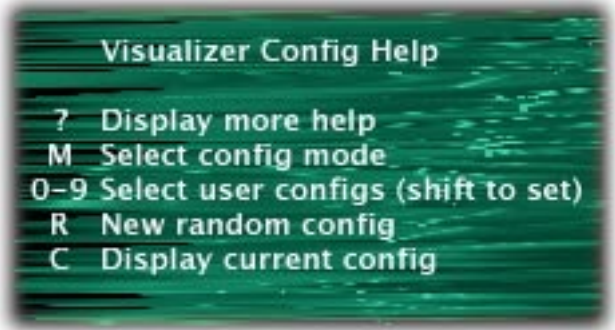
So you've created a monstrous iTunes library, and now you want to transfer your songs to storage devices other than iPods, like SD or CompactFlash cards. It's easy. **Select as many songs as you'd like, and drag them** to your computer's Desktop, or directly to the device you want to store them on. Copies will be made instantly.

You can export a Playlist full of songs, too. **Open the Playlist from the Source List** on the left, then **hit Control-A (PC) or Command-A (Mac)** to Select All. Drag them all together. Easy, eh?



Take control of the Visualizer

If you've ever tried to show off Visualizer and found that it was misbehaving, showing off the most horrible color combinations imaginable, there's a way to take control. If you **hit the ? key**, a little help nugget will appear on screen, and you can flip to a second nugget with another press of the ? key. But using the bigger list of keyboard shortcuts below, you'll never have to look at the "puke colors" scheme again - that is, unless you want to be grossed out.



Key

What it does

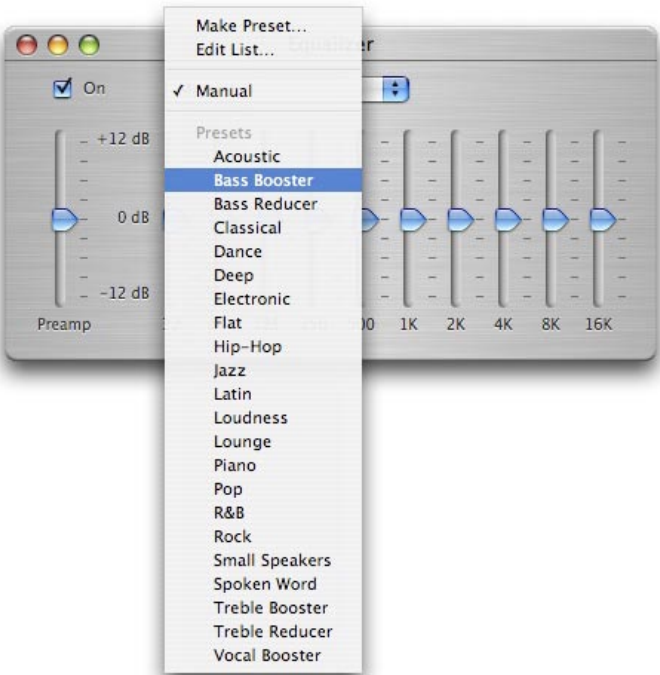
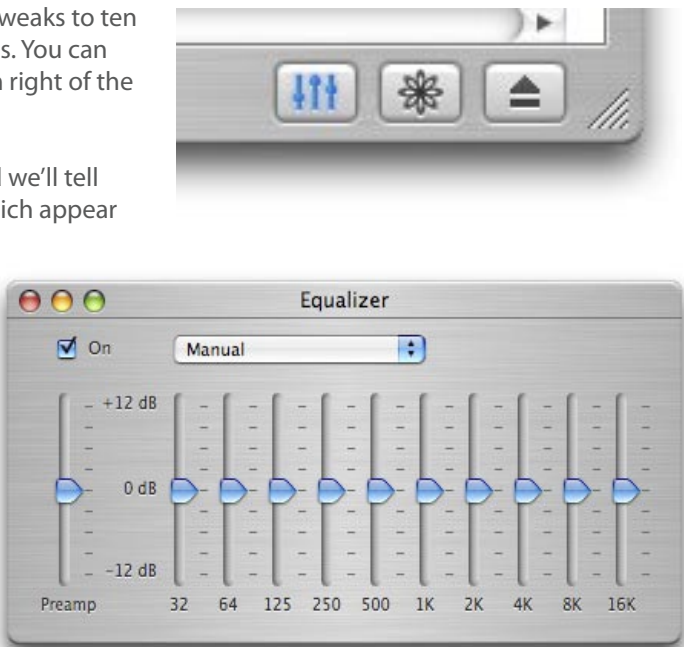
A or S	Changes Visualization effect
B	Displays Apple Logo in center of the Visual
C	Shows/Hides the current Visualizer settings
D	Resets all settings to default
F	Shows/Hides frame rate display
H or ?	Displays Visualizer help
I	Toggles track info display
M	Switch between configuration modes (random, user-saved only, freeze)
N	Choose between normal or high-contrast color modes
Q or W	Toggle between waveform styles
R	Displays a new Visual based on random settings
T	Toggles frame rate capping – a feature used to keep iTunes' processor demands low
Z or X	Changes the color scheme
0 – 9	Displays the user configuration saved to that number
Shift 0 – Shift 9	Saves the current configuration to a number
Left or Right arrows	Changes to previous or next song
Up or Down	Increases or decreases volume (iTunes' volume, not the system volume)

Equalizers: the final frontier

iTunes includes a built-in Equalizer (EQ) that lets you make tweaks to ten different sound frequencies. changing the way music sounds. You can access it by **clicking the left Equalizer button** at the bottom right of the iTunes window.

If you want to play with the individual settings, you can, and we'll tell you how. But most people will stick with Apple's presets, which appear as a list above the frequencies. To use the equalizer's basic functions, you can simply **check the On box** and **select a preset** from the popup menu. You can tweak any of them from there, or **go back to the beginning by choosing Flat**. For information on creating your own presets, see page 105.

The first slider (Preamp) is a general volume booster and reducer. Leave this one as-is, and play with the other ten. We'd suggest you experiment with a handful of your favorite songs to see what sounds best across a bunch of them.



Bass: The 32 and 64 Hz sliders cover the lowest notes - ones you'll hear with a sub-woofer. Increasing these bands gives more depth to bass-heavy music, such as dance music, reggae, and rap.

Midrange: The midranges are the next six sliders from 125 Hz to 4K Hz, and are where the majority of audible sound in music actually takes place. This is where the voices are, and where the guitars, pianos, drums and most other instruments reside. There's still some bass at the low end (125 Hz) of this range.

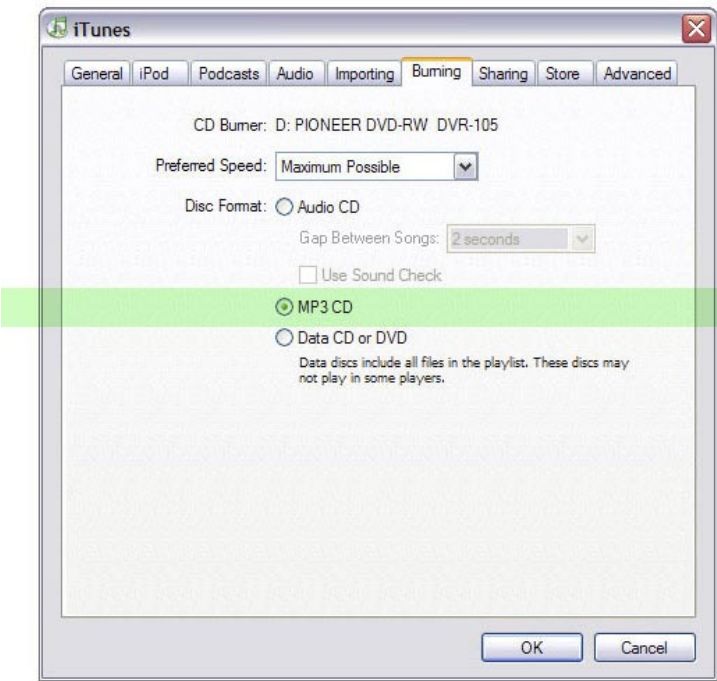
Treble: The last two sliders, 8K Hz to 16 K Hz, affect the high, treble sounds. While most music tends to sit in the midranges, the trebles hold both the very high ends of many instruments, such as violins, cymbals and even high voices, but also contain very important harmonics, or sounds that give music a great deal of depth; if you cut these frequencies off, you'll notice that the music sounds "empty."

Your EQ settings here will affect everything iTunes plays back, unless you use our later tip on selecting individual presets for iTunes songs.

Burning MP3 CDs

As you may already know, iTunes makes it easy to make custom CDs that play in standard CD players. But if you have a player with MP3 CD compatibility, you may want to be burning MP3 CDs instead, since they can hold upwards of 100 songs. Fortunately, iTunes can handle this trick as well.

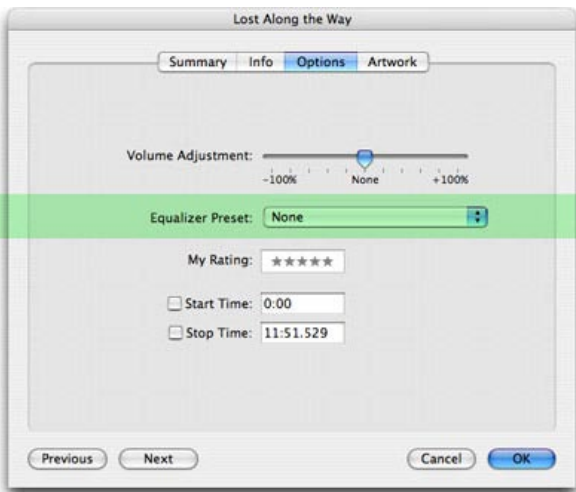
To turn this feature on, go to the **Preferences** window, and click the **Burning Tab**. There, you simply click on the **MP3 CD** option. Now when you click the **Burn Disc** button (upper-right of the iTunes window), you'll be burning MP3 CDs instead of regular ones. Keep in mind that when creating Playlists that will be made into MP3 CDs, you'll need to keep them smaller than the capacity of a CD (640-700 MB) rather than under a certain time.



Apply Equalizer settings to individual songs

Once you start fiddling with the iTunes Equalizer, you'll quickly realize that there isn't a perfect one-size-fits-all solution. Different songs use different instruments and frequencies, and the changes you make to one song's sound will have a very different impact on another song's overall sound. One song may benefit from increased bass, while another may sound muddy. Boosting the treble may help some instruments, but it will make cymbals and other high-pitched instruments sound tinny.

With this in mind, you can apply Equalizer presets to individual songs, or to entire albums, as you wish. Select a song, then select **File > Get Info**. Click the **Options Tab**, then **select a preset from the Equalizer Preset menu**. For multiple songs, Equalizer Preset is on the bottom right of the Get Info screen.



Make your iTunes window the perfect size (Mac)

Do you have to scroll horizontally to see all of your columns in the iTunes window? You could just drag the lower-right corner of the window to stretch it out enough to see your hidden columns (such as Time, Genre and Rating) - or you could try something simpler. **On a Mac, Option-click the zoom control (green) button in the upper-left corner of iTunes**. This will automatically make your window an ideal size so you can see everything.

Open the iTunes Music Store (or a Playlist) in a new window

If you would like to have both your Library and the iTunes Music Store open at the same time in separate windows, just **double click the store's tiny green icon or the words "Music Store"** in the Source list. Now you can mess around in both without switching back and forth within the same window. This tip also works for Playlists - but be sure you double click just its icon and not the name of your Playlist. Otherwise, iTunes will think you want to rename the Playlist that you're trying to open in a new window. Bad iTunes, bad.



Keep your iPod from auto-updating

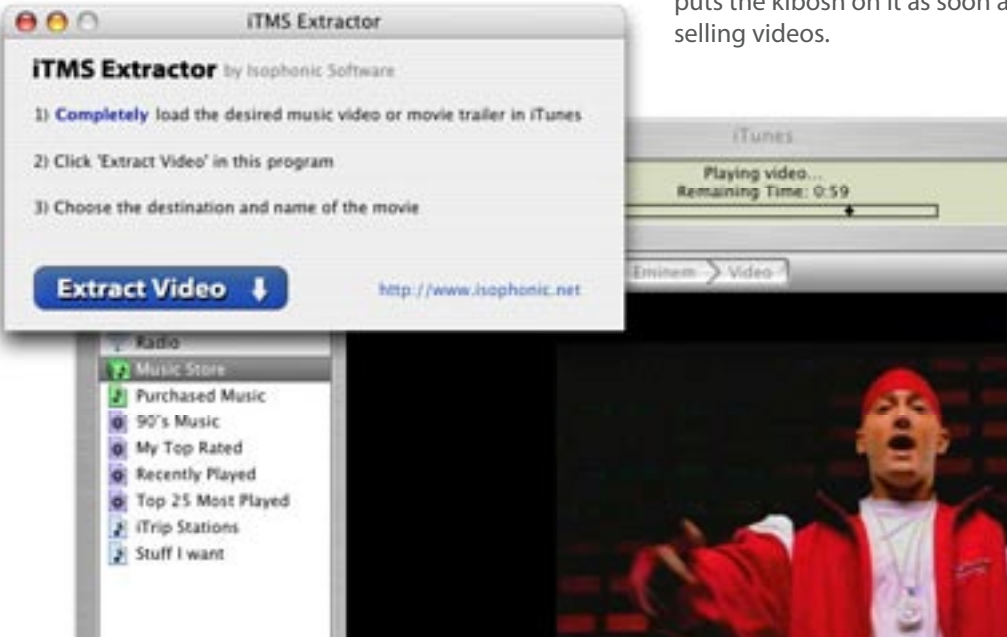
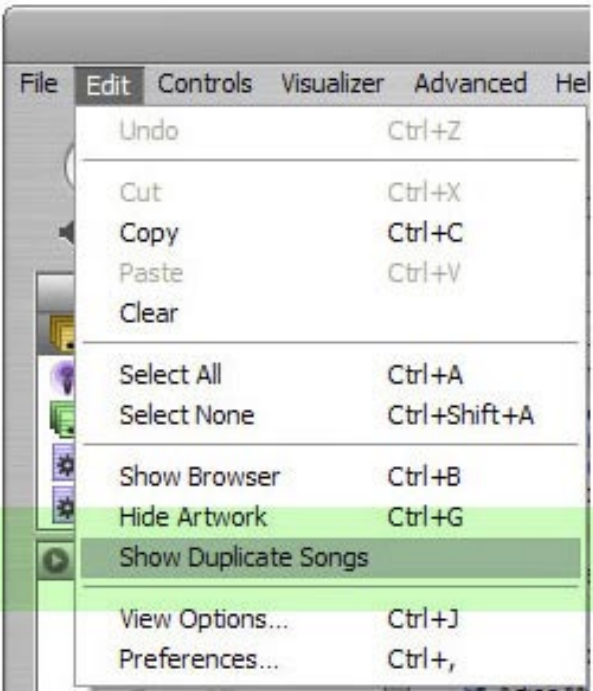
Every once in a while, you may want full control over the updating of your iPod. Perhaps you just want to play some songs from your iPod, or maybe you want to keep all those Johnny Mathis songs you just imported from finding their way into the public eye (or ear, as it maybe) via your iPod. You can turn manual updating on via the **iPod Tab** in **Preferences**, but if you like your automatic way of life and just want to use manual mode on occasion, you're going to love this tip. **Hold Control-Option on a PC or Command-Option on a Mac** when connecting your iPod until it appears in the iTunes Source list, and you will be in full manual control of your iPod - but the next time you connect, your iPod will be back to being fully automatic.

Find and delete duplicate songs

If you have multiple occurrences of several of the same songs in your Library, and want a quick way to weed these duplicates out, fear not. iTunes 4.7 added the much-requested menu item **Show Duplicate Songs**. Found under **Edit > Show Duplicate Songs**, this feature does exactly what it says. By showing you only duplicates, it makes it easier for you to pick out the doubles and get rid of them. Just be careful, as it doesn't discern between live and studio tracks or demos and remixes that have the same name.

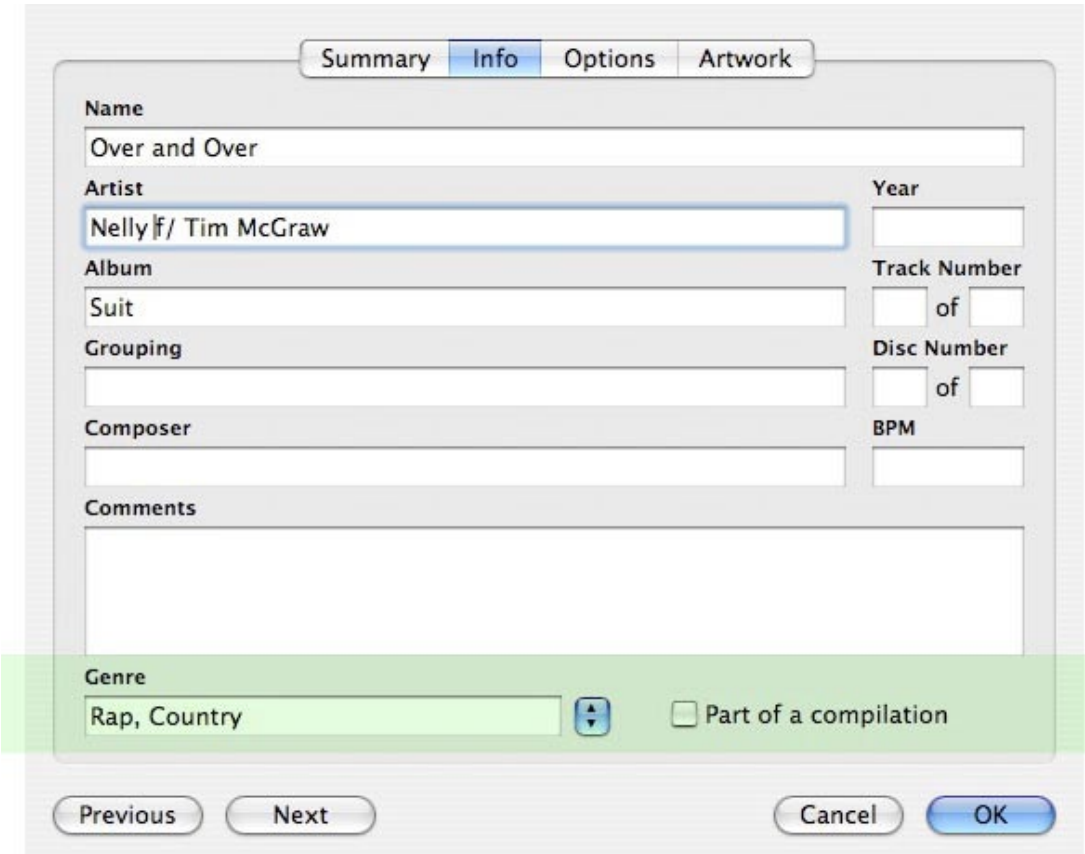
Snag trailers from the iTunes Music Store

Maybe. Apple's iTunes Music Store is one of the best places to watch high quality movie trailers online for free. Unfortunately, Apple only allows you to view them. Wouldn't it be nice if you could save the trailers to your computer so you could watch them later? Well, some people are trying to pull that off. There used to be a Mac OS program called **iTMS Extractor** (below) that handled it, but the developers at Isophonic stopped supporting it, and have created a web-based, platform-independent version by the same name (itms-extractor.com) that's currently in beta testing. You'll need an invitation in order to try it, and we're betting Apple puts the kibosh on it as soon as the iTunes Music Store is selling videos.



Setting multiple Genres for a song

So, you have a weird song performed by Nelly and Tim McGraw. Is it Rap? Is it Country? Well, now you don't have to decide between the two. **Select the song**, go to **File > Get Info** (or use the PC Control-I / Mac Command-I keyboard shortcut), select the **Info Tab**, and set the **Genre** to "Country, Rap." Now the song will appear in Smart Playlists for both Country and Rap. This technique can be used on any song - just make sure you separate them with a comma. Note: this tip does not work for Browser mode.



The iTunes Music Store's Power Search

The simple search feature on the iTunes Music Store is fine for most of your search needs. However, if you're sick of the tons of results that show up when you search for a specific song title or artist, you should check out the store's **Power Search** (near the top of the left hand bar). This feature lets you focus your results - for instance, if you search for "The Killers" in the artist field, the results won't include tracks with just "Killers" in the song or album titles.

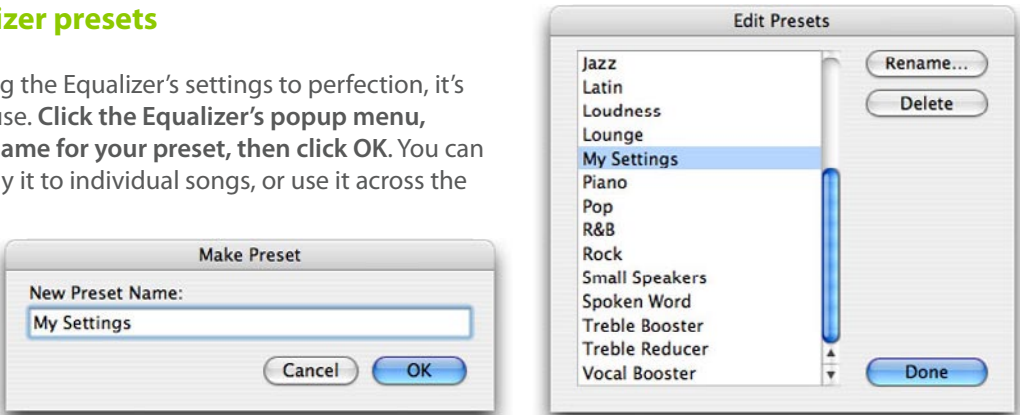


15

How much was the most expensive iPod ever sold by Apple in the United States (without tax)?
A. \$599 B. \$534 C. \$730 D. \$499

Create your own Equalizer presets

Once you've finished tweaking the Equalizer's settings to perfection, it's easy to save them for future use. **Click the Equalizer's popup menu**, select **Make Preset**, enter a name for your preset, then click **OK**. You can then take the preset and apply it to individual songs, or use it across the board for all songs. And if you delete a preset, iTunes will ask if you want to remove it from all songs for which you have set it.



Learn what's hot on the US charts

You're sitting at home one night all by yourself, and turn on the radio. It's full of terrible music that Sony bribed the station's DJs to play. "What," you ask yourself, "are people listening to on radio stations in other cities?"

Well, iTunes has an answer. The Music Store's **Radio Charts** feature is found in the left menu column of the USA storefront. You can head straight for the charts in New York City or Los Angeles and see what Sony's bribing DJs to play there, instead. (Users of international iTunes Music Stores will need to log out and log into the US store to see the charts.) A more grass roots way to find new music is to sort through other users' iMixes, which we'll discuss later.





Resetting the Play Count

As you’ve probably noticed, iTunes keeps track of how many times you’ve played a song all the way through in a little tag call Play Count. This tag can be very useful in creating Smart Playlists - especially a Never Heard Playlist. But sometimes it’s nice to have a fresh start on the Play Count, especially if a relative has been over cranking your copy of Jethro Tull’s Greatest Hits on repeat. The easiest way to reset the Play Count is to **select a song** (or songs - this will work for as many as you can highlight), **Right-click on a PC or Control-click on a Mac**, and select “Reset Play Count.” A dialog box will appear asking if you really, really, really want to do it, and as soon as you hit Yes, the Play Counts of the selected songs are set back to zero.

Multiple On-The-Go Playlists make iTunes easier

You can make multiple On-The-Go Playlists on fourth-generation iPods, color iPods, and iPod minis, but you need to save the current one first. To do this, **scroll all the way to bottom of the current On-The-Go Playlist and select Save Playlist**. This process is similar to the Clear Playlist option in that you have to **select Save Playlist again** on the next screen to make the selection permanent. Once done, your former On-The-Go Playlist will appear in the Playlist screen as New Playlist 1 (or higher if it isn’t the first one you’ve saved). Your new On-The-Go Playlist appears right where the old one was, at the bottom of the Playlist screen. Note that you can only edit the new one - once you’ve saved an On-The-Go Playlist, it can’t be edited until it’s back in iTunes. So dedicate your time to building lists one-by-one until you get back to your computer, then clean the lists up using iTunes.



Control the volume with the scroll wheel on your mouse

If you have a mouse with a scroll wheel, you’re in luck (take that, most Mac owners) - there’s an incredible treat just waiting in iTunes for you. Did you know that you can control the music volume in iTunes with your wheel? Just **hover your pointer somewhere near the volume slider** on the iTunes window and **move your scroll wheel** away from you to increase the volume and towards you to lower the volume. It’s almost enough to make us want to junk these one-button mice we’ve been using for all these years. Well, not really, but it’s something.

Take control of iTunes from the Dock or Tray

One of the most convenient features of iTunes is the ability to control the application from the **Mac Dock or Windows Tray**. This feature is great for when you’re working in another program and have iTunes minimized to the Dock or hidden and want to control it without quitting what you’re doing by bringing the iTunes window to the foreground. By **Right-clicking in Windows, Control-clicking on the Mac, or clicking and holding on the Mac**, a menu pops up that lets you: see what song is currently playing, turn repeat on or off, toggle shuffle mode, pause/ play the track, skip to the next song or jump back to the previous one.

Rate on the fly

The above controls are all well and good, but this menu is best for rating your tunes. (Remember, ratings are key to getting the most out of Smart Playlists.) **Start up an Unrated Songs Smart Playlist in shuffle mode** while you’re working, and use the **Dock or Tray’s menu** to **rate on the fly** without wasting time switching to the iTunes window.

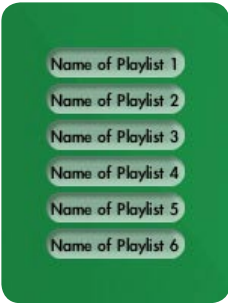
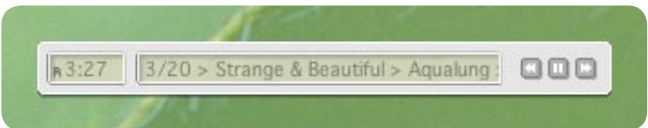


Control iTunes with Widgets: PC

iTunes and iPods inspire people. So do great pieces of software. Back in 2002, two guys came up with a superb free Mac program called **Konfabulator (konfabulator.com)**, which allowed you to keep a bunch of tools - calculators, weather, web camera images, or whatever - sitting on your computer at any time. The tools, called Widgets, were slick. So slick that Apple decided that it wanted to include them in its Tiger operating system. But rather than buying Konfabulator, Apple just copied the idea.

So the Konfabulator guys responded. They created a Windows version of Konfabulator, then teamed up with Yahoo! to give it away for free. Now everyone can have Widgets. And they keep getting better and better.

Here are just a few of the over 60 (PC and Mac total) iTunes-related Widgets available from Konfabulator’s site: remote controls that look like iPod minis and shuffles, a bare-bones iTunes information display and control window, and a set of buttons that automatically call up any of your six favorite playlists.



Control iTunes with Widgets: Mac

So, yes, Apple did something that was not in keeping with karma. But ironically, the whole world is now better off because of it. PC and Mac users both get Widgets, and everyone is happy.

But Mac users are getting the best iTunes Widgets of them all. In addition to all of the Konfabulator widgets, which work on any Mac, OS X Tiger users can download all sorts of free new ones that were made specifically for Tiger. They benefit from even better visual effects than the impressive Konfabulator Widgets, and offer very similar features. To download them, hit F12, hit the Plus button in the left bottom corner, select Manage Widgets next to it, and click on More Widgets in the Widget Manager that appears. You'll go to Apple's site, where a huge collection of Widgets (iTunes and otherwise) is available. Go to the Music category, and you'll find a whole bunch of iTunes and non-iTunes options. Here's a rundown of what's available for iTunes:

- iTunes controllers.** Apple and others have released iTunes remote controls that can change tracks, display song information and art, and even sometimes switch playlists.
- One-trick ponies.** iRate and BPM Widget are examples of Widgets that only do one thing. iRate lets you rate your songs. BPM Widget tells you the number of beats per minute of the current song - good for DJs.
- iTunes Music Store charts.** There are a few really cool Widgets that keep you up to date on what's popular at the iTMS. One has animated silhouettes at the top, others display art.
- Lyric machines.** Several widgets go out to the Internet and find the lyrics to any song you listen to. Sing That iTunes! and IgLyric both worked well for us.
- iLounge.** We have a Widget - coming soon! It's built to help you check out our latest news, headlines, and help archives.



Manually managing songs to and from your iPod

iTunes makes it easy to keep your iPod up-to-date with your latest music acquisitions. If your Library is small, it simply copies the whole thing, and if your Library is bigger, you can tell iTunes to automatically update only certain Playlists. If this automatic stuff isn't for you, don't fret. There is a way to keep total control over what goes onto your iPod - manual updating.

With your iPod attached, go to the Preferences window and click the iPod Tab (or just click the iPod button next to the Visualizer button in the bottom-right corner of iTunes). Click the checkbox next to **Manually manage songs and playlists**, and you'll be up and running. You can now drag any song or Playlist you want to and from the iPod, and you can also play songs directly from the iPod that may not be present on your hard drive. To revert back to the ease of automatic life, just revisit the Preferences iPod Tab and select one of the automatic options.



Quickly add songs from CDs to Playlists

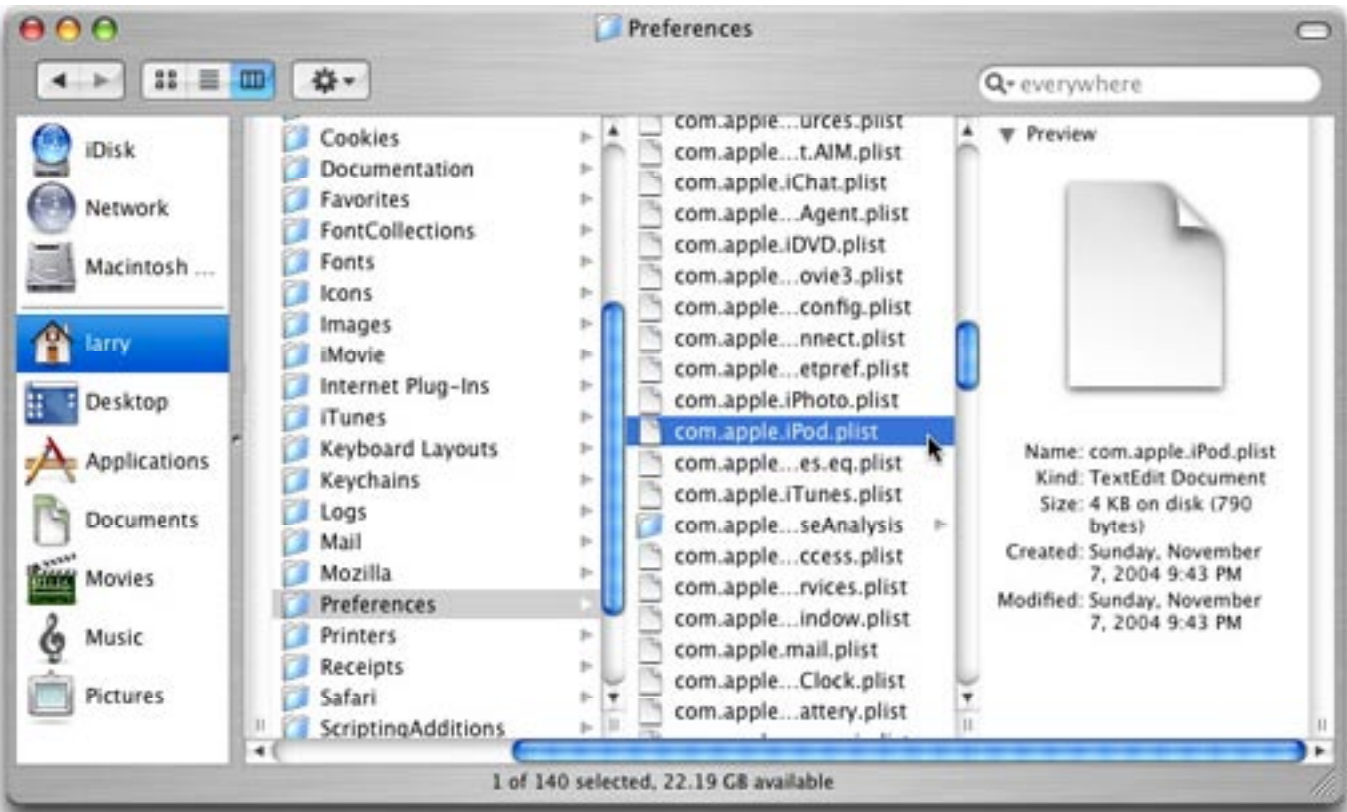
An easy way to add individual songs from a CD to a Playlist is to simply drag them from the CD track list to the desired Playlist in the Source list. iTunes will automatically import them and add them to your Library and to the Playlist. If you want the song to appear in a new Playlist, simply drag it to an unoccupied area in the Source list.

17

How many songs did Apple say that the first-generation iPod could hold?
A. Up to 1,250 B. Up to 1,000 C. Up to 2,000 D. Up to 1,500

Recover your lost iPod's serial number (Mac)

Hopefully, you'll never have to use this tip. But, in the event that your iPod gets lost or stolen, you'll need its serial number to file a police report or possible insurance claim. If you didn't think to write it down and you've since thrown away the box (or if you never got the box because it was a hand-me-down iPod from your big sister), you're not out of luck - if you have a Mac. Navigate to your **Home directory** (the one you've named) in Mac OS X and go to **Library > Preferences**. Find and open the com.apple.iPod.plist file with any text editor and you'll be able to spot your iPod's serial number. If you have a PC, be sure to keep a copy of the serial number handy - it's not as easy to find.



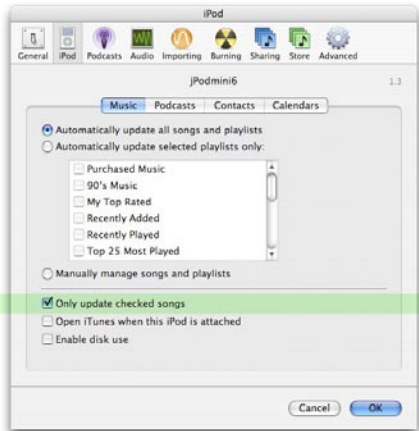
Time for a change

Is the Elapsed Time display just not doing it for you anymore? Well, click on it when you're playing a song and it will change to the Remaining Time of the current track. Click it again, and the status window will show you the Total Time of the entire song.



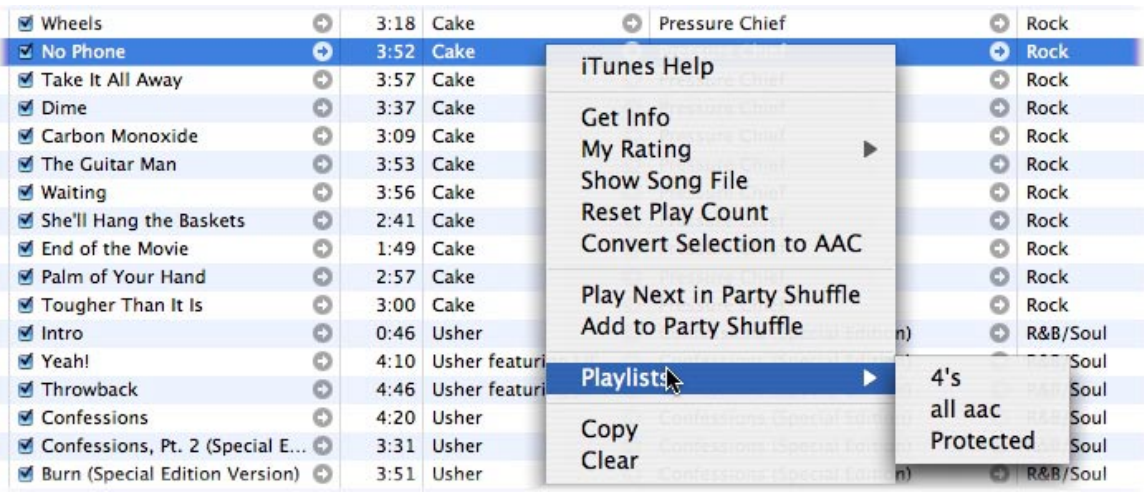
Managing your Library with checkmarks

You're in a quandry: do you want iTunes to always transfer your entire collection to your iPod, or do you want to take full control of which songs get copied? That's what the Automatic and Manual settings seem to force you to decide. But there are two compromises. You can put iTunes in fully automatic mode ("update everything"), have it update only specific playlists, or ignore songs that aren't checked - yes, the **little checkmarks** to the left in your iTunes window. In **Preferences**, click the **iPod Tab** (when your iPod is connected). Then, in the **Music Tab**, check **Only Update Checked Songs**. iTunes will then not copy any unchecked songs to your iPod.



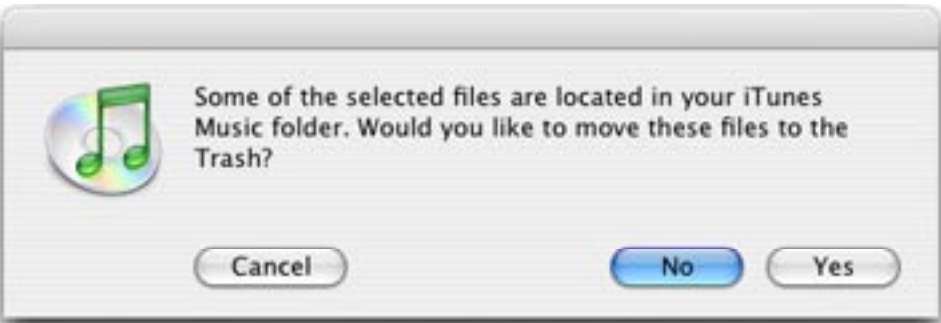
Find out where a song is hangin'

If you're creating Playlists manually, or if you have quite a few Playlists and try to keep them from having the same songs as another, this tip will help you out. By **Right-clicking** (or **Mac Control-clicking**) on a song, you get a contextual menu containing the Playlists item. From here you can get a list of all the Playlists in which a single song resides. This tip is also good for making mix CDs when you know you want a song on the CD but can't remember if you already added it.



One letter answers

Ever get tired of clicking on seemingly endless Yes and No buttons in iTunes dialog boxes? Well, you don't have to any more. **Hitting the corresponding Y or N key** will do the same thing without moving the cursor.



18

In what venue was the iPod photo first shown?
A. The Rose Bowl B. Apple Expo C. The California Theatre D. The Mirage Hotel

Keep computer-deleted files on your iPod

If you automatically manage your iPod, are running out of computer hard drive space, and want to delete songs from your computer without losing them on the iPod, here's a dirty little workaround. **Remove the files from your hard disk, but do not delete them from your iTunes library.** They'll appear in iTunes with an ! next to their names, meaning that iTunes cannot find them. They will not, however, be deleted from your iPod when you sync automatically. If you return them to your iTunes Music folder later, all will be well. We don't advise this tip, but it works.

	Name	Time	Artist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Hitmen	1:18	Dolemite
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Power of Your Love	2:21	Dolemite
!	Mayor's Getaway	3:15	Dolemite
!	Ghetto Expressions	3:49	Dolemite
!	Flatland	3:06	Dolemite
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dolemite	2:54	Dolemite
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do You Still Care	3:34	Dolemite
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creeper	3:01	Dolemite

Getting rid of the arrows

By default, iTunes has a setting turned on that creates a link to the iTunes Music Store from the Song Name, Artist, and Album tags on everything in your Library. These links can be a little overwhelming.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Encore / Curtains Up	0:48	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evil Deeds	4:19	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Never Enough	2:39	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yellow Brick Road	5:46	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Like Toy Soldiers	4:56	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosh	5:17	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Puke	4:07	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	My 1st Single	5:02	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul (Skit)	0:32	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rain Man	5:14	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Big Weenie	4:27	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Em Calls Paul (Skit)	1:11	Eminem	➔	Encore (Deluxe Version)	➔

To get rid of them, go to the **Preferences** menu. Under the **General Tab**, there is a checkbox labeled **Show Links to Music Store**. Un-checking this will rid your Library of the links, and of course you can always turn them back on later if you want.



Use an iPod with Mac OS 9

Did you know that it's possible to use an iPod even if you're still stuck in the dark ages of Mac OS 9? Yup, it's true. Just don't expect to be rockin' out with a top-of-the-line 60GB iPod - you can only use a first- or second-generation model (5, 10 or 20GB). And since Apple no longer sells these, you'll have to get one off eBay or dig up your weird friend who was buried with his original iPod in 2002 after a freak PowerBook battery incident. Either way, once you have your little white beauty all you'll need to do is update your software. You'll need Mac OS 9.2.1 (<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120030>), iTunes 2.0.4 (<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120073>), and iPod Software 1.3 (<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120198>).

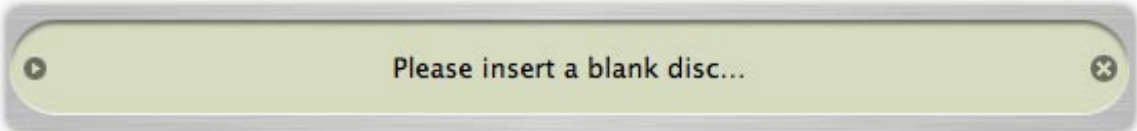
Edit song info like a pro

This is one of the best advanced keyboard tips out there - one for real iTunes pros. When editing track information for multiple songs, it can be a pain to keep clicking the Next button at the bottom of the Get Info window to start editing another song's details. Instead, just press **Control-N on PCs, Command-N on Macs to go Next, or Control/Command-P for the previous song**. If you want to jump from tab to tab (Summary, Info, Options, Artwork) in the Get Info window, press **Control or Command-]** (bracket). Bonus: This also works for the **Preferences** window.



Avoid the blank CD warning

Have you ever been ready to burn a CD, inserted a blank, and gotten the annoying dialog box asking you what you want to do with it? To avoid this irritation, **click the Burn Disc button before you insert the CD**. iTunes instinctively then asks you to insert a blank CD. Armed with this knowledge, you'll never have to deal with that dialog box again - in iTunes, at least.



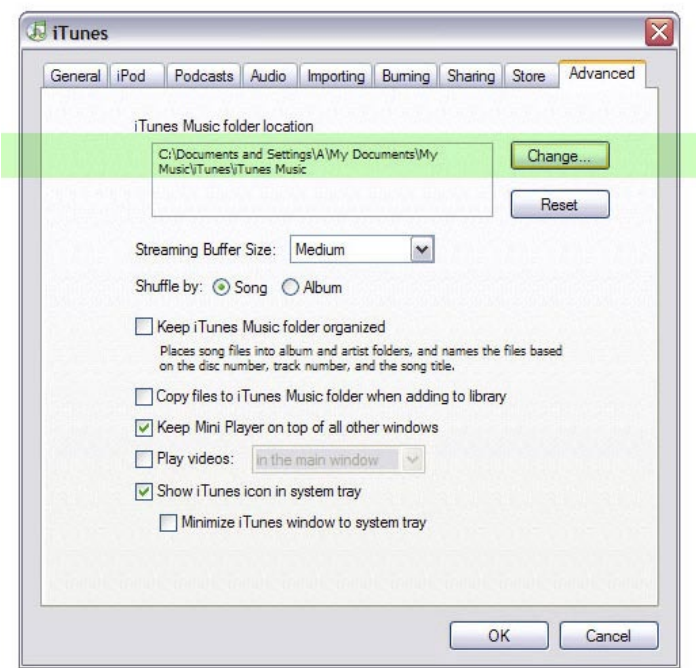
19

What was the first Windows-ready music management program to ship with an iPod?
A. iTunes 2.0 B. iTunes 3.0 C. iTunes 4.0 D. MusicMatch

Moving your iTunes Music folder to a different drive

For those with truly huge music collections, the addition of a separate music drive can become a necessity, especially if you use a laptop. iTunes is there to make sure that moving your Library isn't nearly as time consuming or tedious as it sounds. First, **open the Windows Explorer or Mac Finder. Move the iTunes Music folder** (located on the PC at Documents and Settings\yourusername\My Documents\My Music\iTunes\iTunes Music and on Macs at Users > (yourusername) > Music > iTunes) **to the location you've selected** on the new drive.

All you have to do from there is tell iTunes where you've moved the folder. By going into **Preferences** and selecting the **Advanced Tab**, you can click the **Change button** next to the iTunes Music location box and **direct iTunes toward the new external home of your music folder**. As soon as iTunes recognizes it, you can make all the additions and subtractions you want and they will all take place inside the external Music folder and not the one on your computer. Just be sure the drive is on when iTunes is loaded, or iTunes will be confused.



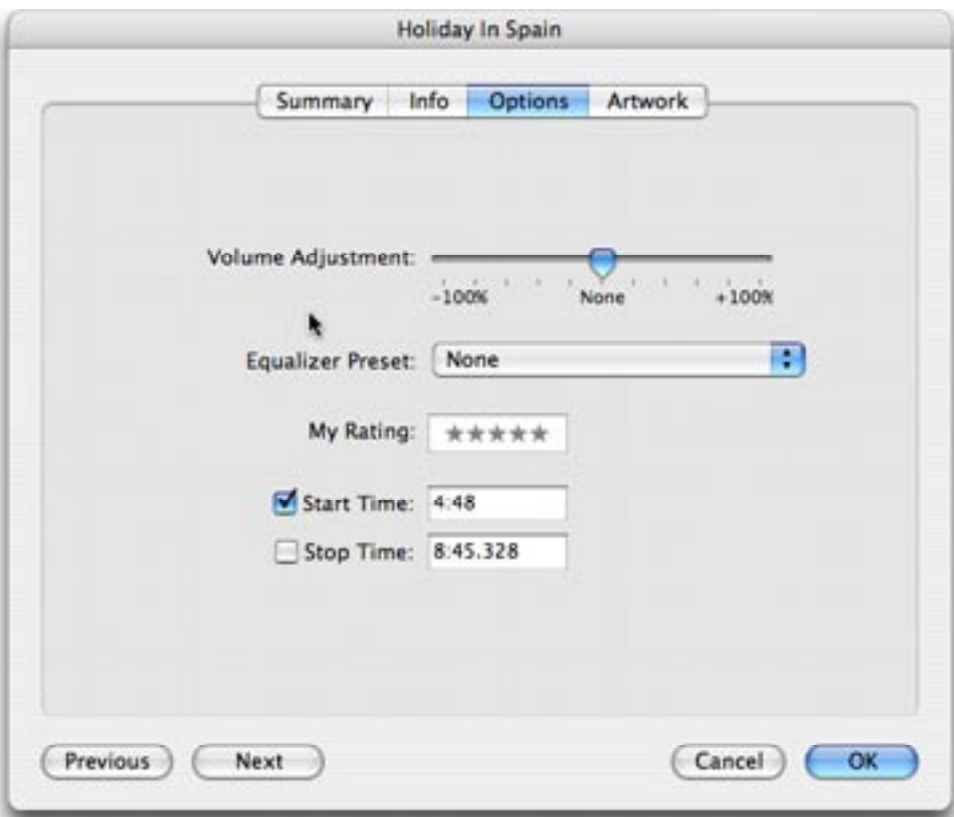
Sharing iTunes Music Store songs on multiple computers

If you've purchased songs from iTunes and want to hear them on multiple computers, **start by copying the music files to each computer** (either over a network, if your computers are networked, or by burning the music files onto CDs or DVDs - you can use a CD-RW or DVD-RW disc for this to save plastic). **Once you have added the songs to the iTunes libraries on each computer, you need to authorize the computers.** Just **double-click any purchased song in iTunes, and enter your iTunes Music Store user name and password when prompted.** (You'll need to have Internet access on each computer, at least temporarily.) When this is done, you'll be able to use the music on all three computers, and on all three iPods. Note that you can have up to five computers authorized for your iTunes Music Store account.



Splitting a song

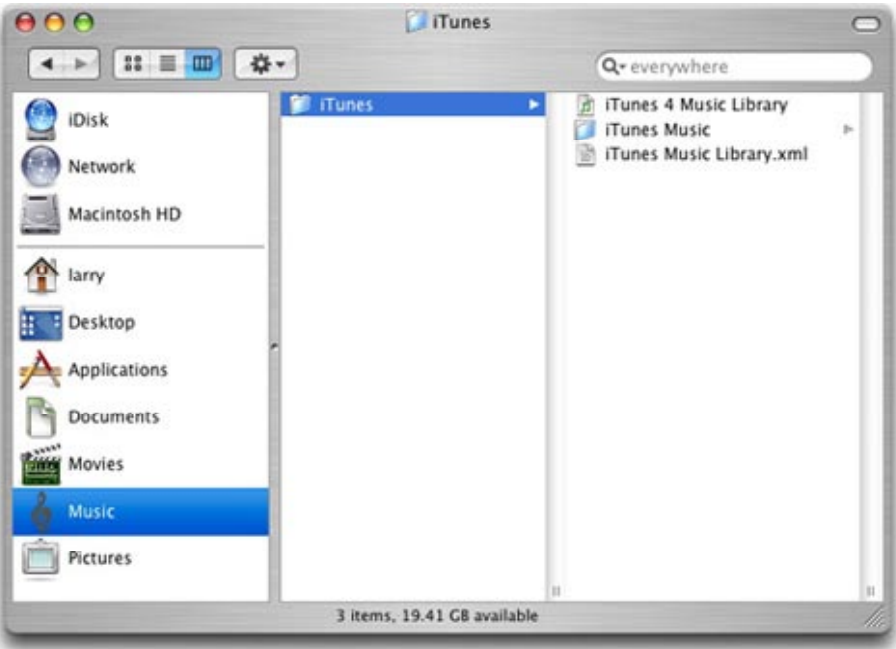
Do you have any CDs with hidden bonus tracks? You know, the ones that are attached to another song via three or more minutes of silence? Well, there's an easy built-in way to make these separate tracks in iTunes. First, **select a song and Get Info** on it by going to File > Get Info. In the Get Info window, click on **Options** and then **set the Start and Stop times** for the song. Once these are set, **click OK**, and then with the song still selected, go to **Advanced > Convert Selection to AAC** (or whatever your preferred format is). This will create a new track containing just the sound between the start and stop times you set. This tip is also useful for splitting Audiobooks into shorter segments.



Take your music with you (switching computers)

As you learned in a previous tip, iTunes makes it simple to change the location of your Music folder. iTunes also makes it relatively easy to move from one computer to another and take your Music Library with you.

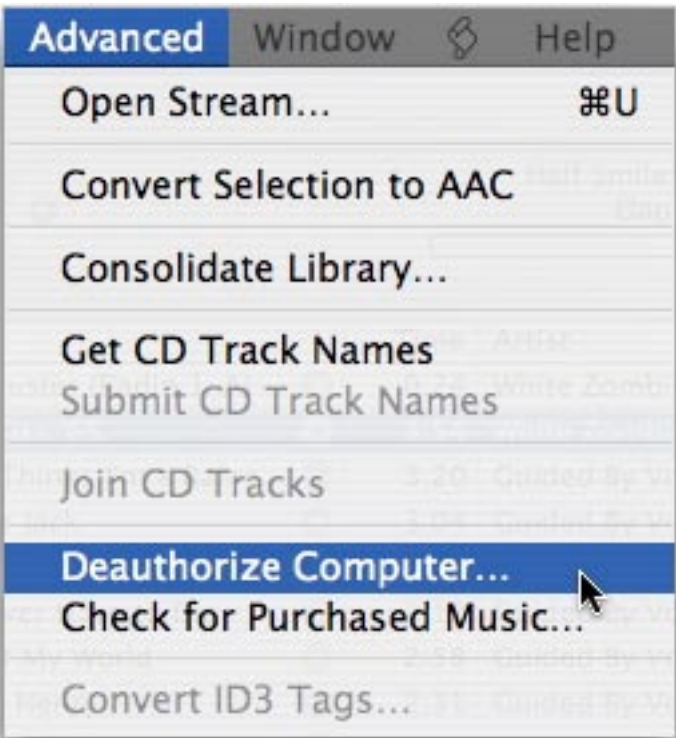
The first step is to **locate your iTunes folder on your hard drive**, which we discussed in an earlier tip. The second step is to **copy the entire contents of the iTunes folder to the same spot on your new computer**. You can do this via File Sharing, by burning it to CD or DVD (if it will fit), or by using our recommended Mac technique: FireWire Target Mode. Make sure your old Mac is shut down, connect it to the new (and



running) Mac, and then startup the old one while holding the "T" key. This will start your old computer in Target Mode, and it should appear in the Finder window of the new computer. You can then drag the iTunes folder to the Music folder in your new Home directory. As long as you **keep the iTunes Music folder in the same space** - either on an external drive or in your newly copied iTunes folder - your fresh copy of iTunes on your new Mac should start up already containing your Music Library from the old computer.

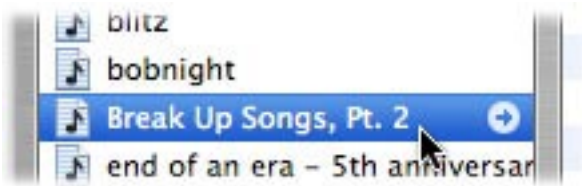
Deauthorize your old computer

As part of the iTunes Music Store's FairPlay Digital Rights Management system, you have to authorize a computer to play songs purchased with your account before you can actually play them. This works out fine until the day comes that you want to move on to the new computer you've been dreaming about. iTunes provides a way to deauthorize your computer, but it is important that you do so before you ship it out because as of right now you can only deauthorize a computer from the computer itself. Go to **Advanced > Deauthorize Computer**. You then have to **select** whether to deauthorize it from the **iTunes Music Store** or from an **Audible account**, and **enter the password for the account you selected**. If you should decide to keep the computer and need to reauthorize it, simply try to play a song purchased with the account you deauthorized, and iTunes will walk you through the process of authorizing your machine once again.



Make your own Celebrity Playlist with iMix

Have you ever had a Playlist you liked so much that you wanted to share it with others? Do you think your musical taste is ready for the masses? If so, Apple has a feature for you: iMix. iMix allows you to add any Playlist you want to the iTMS, provided the songs are available. Creating your iMix is easy. First, **create a Playlist containing the songs you want in your iMix**. Then either **click the arrow button next to the Playlist's name**, or if you turned the buttons off, go to **File > Create an iMix**. From there, you'll be prompted to **give your iTMS account password**, then be taken to a page listing how the iMix will appear to other users. Here you can **add a description of your iMix** if you want. Keep in mind that your iMix can be rated by any other user of the iTMS, and you can always update your iMix by publishing it again from the Playlist.



Making unprotected AAC and MP3 files bookmarkable and/or speed adjustable

As you may already know, fourth-generation iPods, iPod minis, and color iPods have the ability to change the speed of Audiobooks. By nature, these Audiobooks also have a bookmarking feature that allows you to interrupt your "reading" to listen to a song, then pick up right where you left off when you switch back. These are both great features for Audiobooks, but it might be nice to have them for regular audio lectures and symphonies, or just to use the speed control to experiment with normal songs.

Well, there is a way to do exactly that. By using a free third-party Mac utility called **Quick Change**, you can alter the tag iTunes and your iPod look at to identify the type of file. Essentially, we are using it to fool them into thinking your normal AAC file (sorry, this doesn't work with MP3s unless you convert them to AAC first) is one of those privileged Audiobooks.

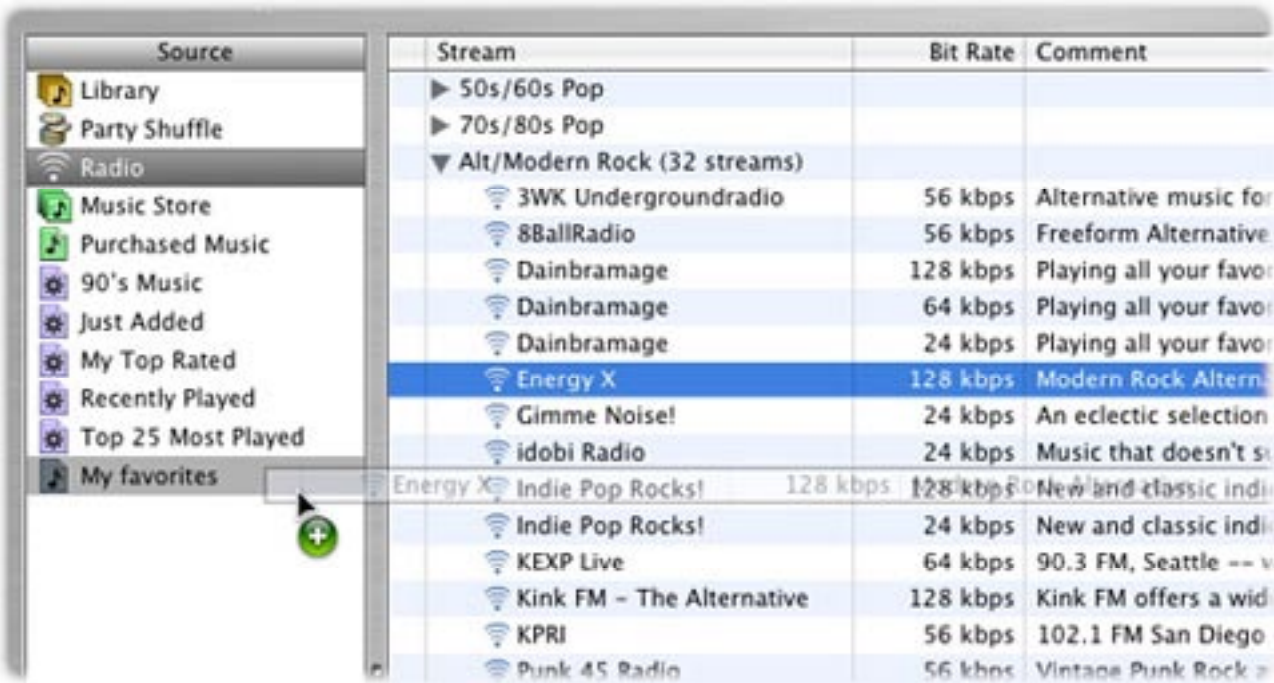
First, download and open Quick Change (everydaysoftware.net/quickchange/index.html). Next you should go to **File > Open** and find a normal file that you'd like to use the bookmarking and or speed adjust feature with. Once you have your file ready, all you need to do is **change the text in the Type field from "M4A" to "M4B"** (both with spaces at the end) and **hit Save**. Now iTunes and your iPod will think that song you just changed is an Audiobook. In fact, it will even appear in the **Music > Audiobooks** menu on your iPod. If you have several songs you would like to do this with, you can drag and drop them to the drawer below the main Quick Change window, type "M4B" in the Type field, and hit the **Batch** button and all of the files will be changed at once.



Starting with iTunes 4.9, Apple also enabled "regular" MP3 and AAC files to be bookmarkable, as well, but there's another catch. You'll need to identify them as podcasts by selecting the Podcast genre under Get Info. If you don't like that option, iPodSoft now offers a \$15 PC program called **MarkAble** (ipodsoft.com/index.php?/software/markable) that can help you create bookmarkable non-audiobook and non-podcast files, as well.

Roundup your favorite radio stations

One of the best things about iTunes is its huge selection of built-in Internet Radio stations. Unfortunately, this selection of stations is also one of the worst things about iTunes - it's huge and you may not be able to find a station you liked after hearing it once. Luckily, the application quietly allows you to add your favorite stations to any Playlist. Just go through all the stations from time to time and when you find one you like, **drag it over to a Playlist**. (They're differentiated in the Playlist from normal tracks by a tiny blue icon in front of the station names.) Now you can tune in super quick - sort of like those presets on your car radio.



Ditch the battery icon on black-and-white iPods

Okay, this isn't an iTunes tip per se, but we had to toss it in because it's so cool. The iPod battery icon isn't the most detailed way to figure out how much battery life you have left. This tip shows you how to **replace the icon with a voltage number** that is a little easier to gauge. (Around 500 is the maximum, give or take 20-30.) It's not really a countdown timer, but it's better than the limited iPod icons.

To turn on the voltage meter with a Mac, use **Terminal** (Applications > Utilities in Mac OS X) and type:

```
touch /Volumes/name_of_your_iPod/iPod_Control/Device/_show_voltage
```

To revert back to the lovely icon, type the following in Terminal:
rm /Volumes/name_of_your_iPod/iPod_Control/Device/_show_voltage

You must have your iPod connected to your Mac and enabled for Disk Use for this tip to work. And you'll need to change the "name_of_your_iPod" part above to the name of your iPod.

To pull this off on a PC, go to **Windows' Tools menu** (inside any Explorer window), select **Folder Options, View, and Show Hidden Files and Folders**. Also be sure you're displaying filename extensions. Then find the iPod's hidden iPod_Control folder, and the Device folder inside of that. **Create an empty text file** (right-click on the folder inside Windows, and choose New > Text Document), then rename it "_show_voltage" without the quotes, and without .txt at the end. That's it. Delete this file when you want your old icon back.



Pre-built Smart Playlists

We've already shown you how to create your own Smart Playlist, so we decided to share with you the top five Smart Playlists that we couldn't live without. Remember, the easiest way to **create a Smart Playlist is by Shift-clicking (PC) or Option-clicking (Mac) the Add Playlist button**.

Unrated Songs

Great for when you have a large music library and you're in the mood to do some rating.
< My Rating - is less than - ★ >

Heavy Rotation

Admit it. You listen to a handful of tracks 90 percent of the time. This Smart Playlist grabs only songs with four or five stars that have been played within the last three days.
< My Rating - is greater than - ★ ★ ★ > < Last Played - is in the last - 3 days >

Never Heard

Another great one for those of us with gigabytes and gigabytes of music. Chances are good that you'll unexpectedly find a gem.
< Play Count - is - 0 >

New Music

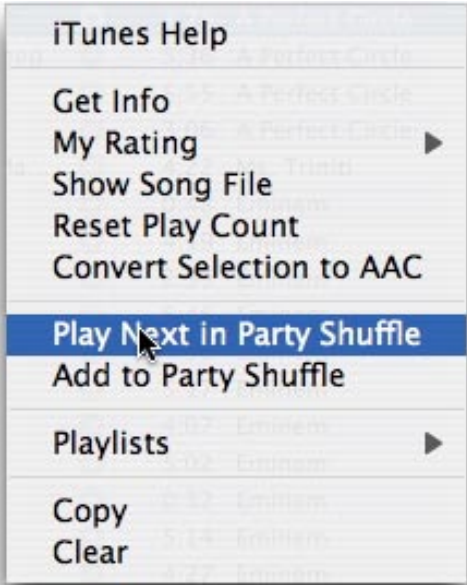
This Smart Playlist is perfect for just checking out all the latest tunes added to your collection.
< Date Added - is in the last - 30 days >

Purchased Music

Yes, we know one of these comes with iTunes by default. But, if you happen to delete it, you're pretty much out of luck - iTunes will create another "Purchased Music" Playlist the next time you buy something from the iTunes Music Store, but it won't include all of your previous purchases.
< Kind - is - Protected AAC audio file >

Quickly queue up a song in Party Shuffle

If you consider yourself an aspiring DJ, this tip will help you play tracks in the Party Shuffle mode with the quickness. After you've created a Party Shuffle Playlist (just click "Party Shuffle" in the Source list) and are jamming to a tune, and get a requested song that you know you have, find it in your music library using the Search bar (top right of the window), Right-click (PC) or Control-click (Mac) the song, and select **Play Next in Party Shuffle** from the contextual menu. The track will appear in the Party Shuffle Playlist below the currently playing song and will be the next to play.



22

Which band's name appears on the current 60GB iPod's box?
A. Parliament Funkadelic B. The Beatles C. Black Eyed Peas D. G-Unit

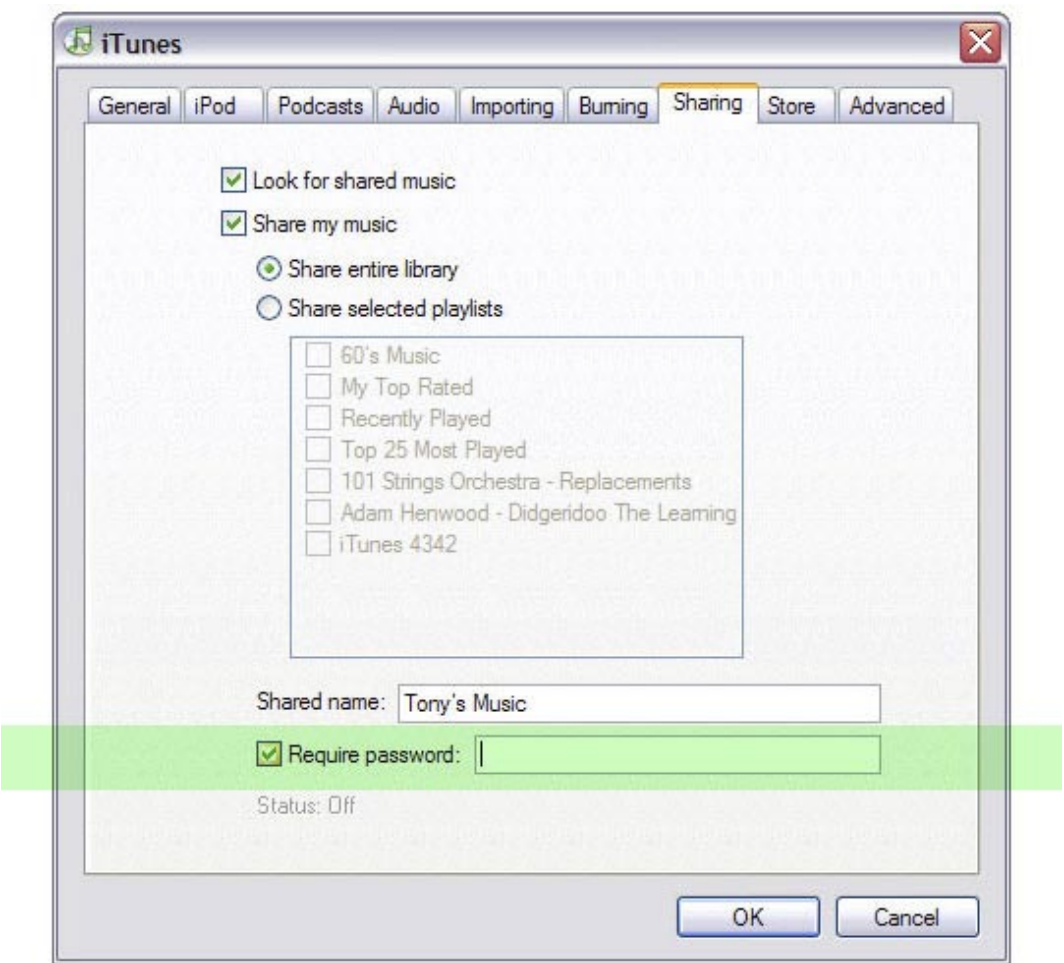
iSync your iPod (Mac)

If you have a Mac running OS X 10.3 or earlier, you may already know that you can use iSync to keep your calendars, contacts, and other information synced between computers. But did you know that you can also use iSync to keep the calendars and contacts on your iPod up to date? With your iPod attached, **open the iSync application**. Your iPod should show up in the brushed metal bar in the application. **Click on it**, and you will get a window with options to turn on synchronization, sync automatically, sync contacts, and sync calendars. Under the Contacts and Calendars sections there are options to synchronize all or just some of either group. Once you have everything to your liking, **hit Sync Now** and your iPod will be loaded up and ready to go. Apple's integrated this synchronization into iTunes when it runs under Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, but that's it.



Password protecting your shared music

Sharing your music can be a great convenience, but it can also be a problem if you have music or Audiobooks that shouldn't be heard by all in your house (your child listening to your Chris Rock comedy performance, for example). Fortunately, there is a simple setting in iTunes to keep this from being a problem. By going to iTunes > **Preferences** and then the **Sharing Tab**, you can select the **Require password** checkbox, and then type in a password only you know to keep wandering eyes - or ears, in this matter - out of your Library.



Formatted versus unformatted space

So you've turned on iTunes and discovered that your 60GB iPod doesn't hold 60GB worth of data. Now you want to know why. Here's the reason, as explained by iLounge's resident rocket scientist, Jerrod Hofferth.

"Hard drives are sold and marketed using decimal gigabytes. That is, a 'GB' consists of 1,000,000,000 bytes. However, computers interpret gigabytes in binary. To a computer, 1 GB equals 1,073,741,824 bytes.

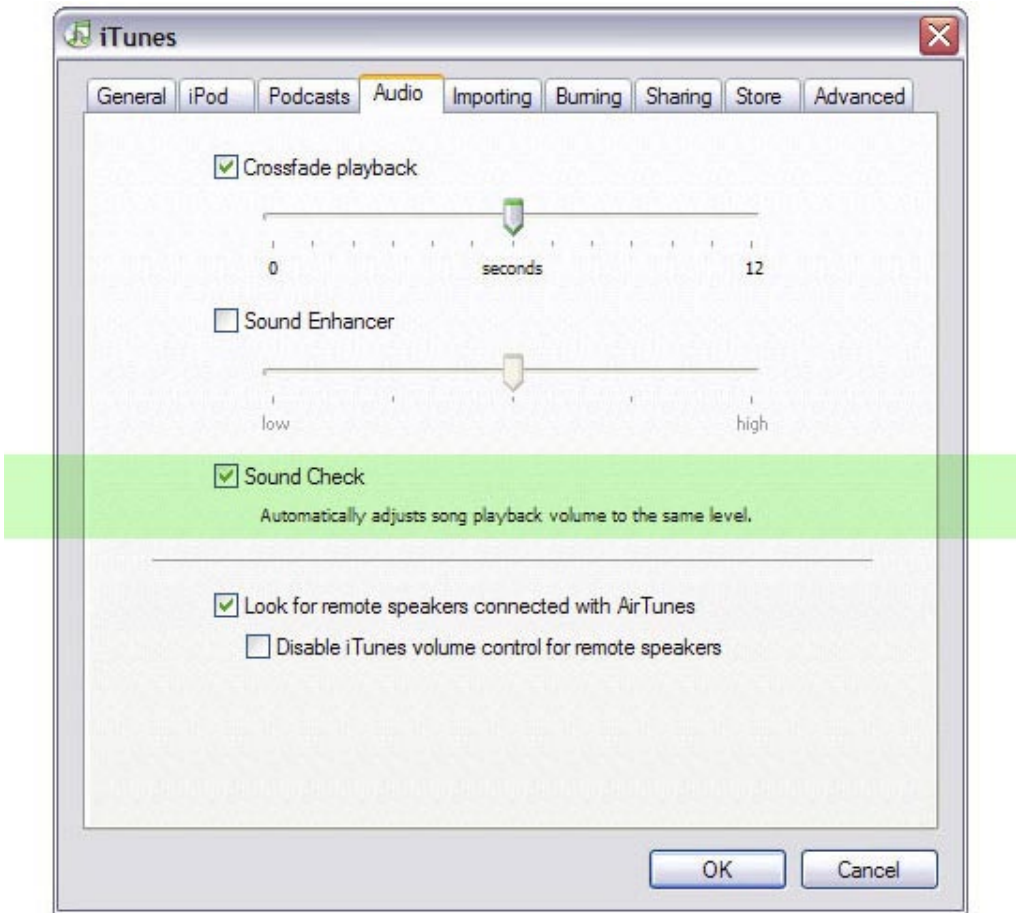
The ratio of 'actual' to 'marketed' file size is the ratio of these two numbers, or roughly 0.9313225. Therefore an X-sized (marketed) drive actually has 0.9313225*X of space usable to a computer."

Make sense? No? Well, anyway, the table here will tell you how much space you actually have on any given iPod. Try not to use it all at once.

60GB*0.9313225 =	55.88GB
40GB*0.9313225 =	37.25GB
30GB*0.9313225 =	27.94GB
20GB*0.9313225 =	18.6GB
15GB*0.9313225 =	13.97GB
10GB*0.9313225 =	9.31GB
6GB*0.9313225 =	5.59GB
5GB*0.9313225 =	4.67GB
4GB*0.9313225 =	3.73GB
1GB*0.9313225 =	0.93GB
512MB*0.9313225 =	476.84MB

Save your ears with Sound Check

If your musical taste has a large range, or if you don't like being startled by super loud songs, the Sound Check setting in iTunes is for you. Sound Check will automatically adjust the volume of your songs to the same level. This is especially handy if you're a Shuffler and can go from Harry Connick, Jr. to Slipknot. Go to the **Preferences** menu and click the **Audio Tab**. Now just select the **Sound Check** option. In order to use this feature on your iPod, you must turn it on in both iTunes and on your iPod. **After you've turned it on in iTunes, go to Settings > Sound Check on your iPod** and press the **Select button** to turn it from Off to On.



Deleting your entire iTunes Library

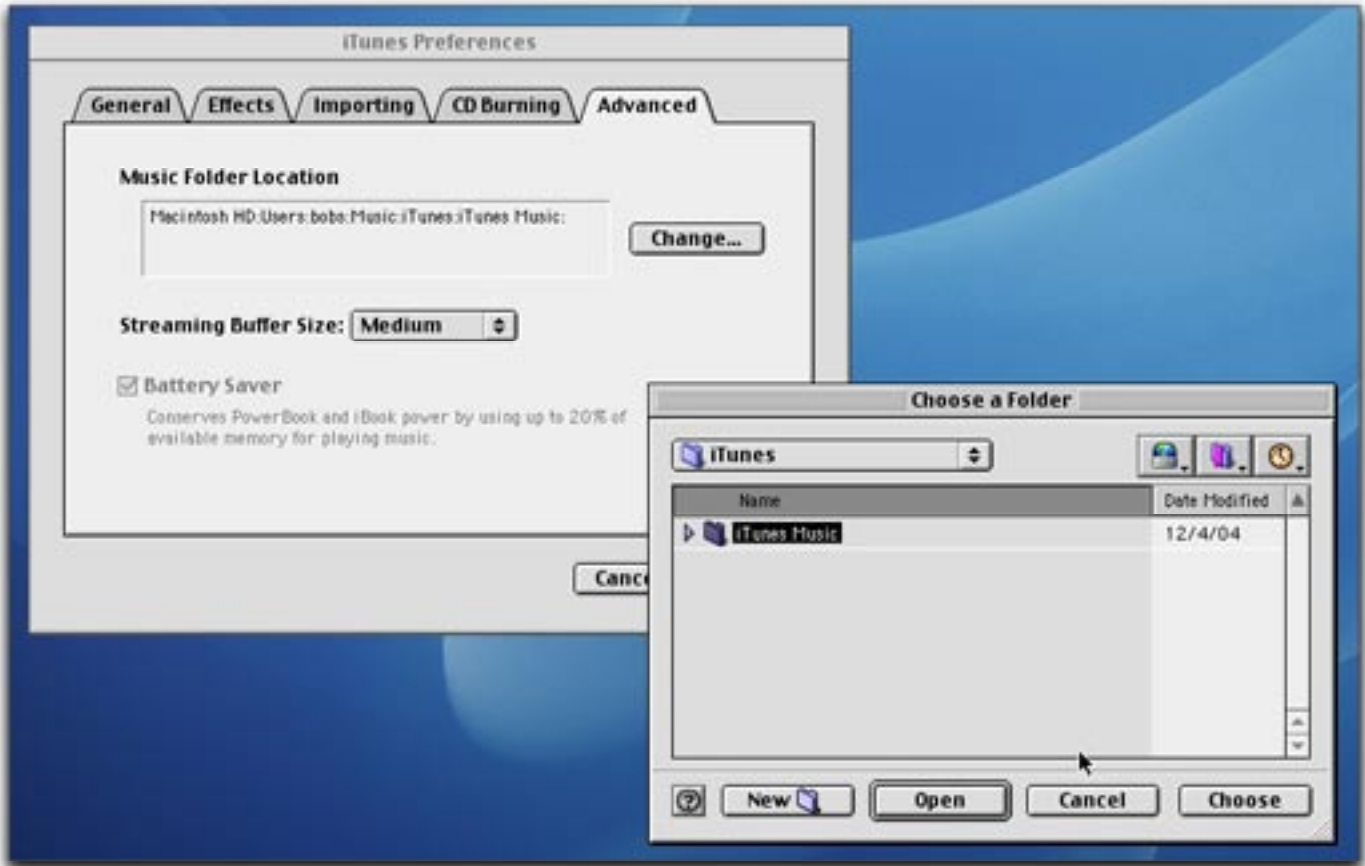
You've just discovered that every one of your songs was ripped improperly, and you want to delete everything. We've been through it.

To delete your entire Library, first **make sure you have backups of your songs** - just in case you decide later that you need some of them. Then, **in iTunes, click the Library icon in the Source list. Select Edit > Select All** to select all your songs. Press the Delete key, and confirm your deletion.

Need to do the same thing for your iPod? This will depend on whether you sync your iPod manually or automatically. If you sync it automatically and delete your songs from the iTunes Library, the next time you connect the iPod, iTunes will remove all its songs; since the iTunes Library is empty, syncing simply mirrors this empty Library on the iPod. If you sync manually, just do the same thing as you did for the iTunes Library: connect the iPod, select all the songs on the iPod, then press Delete.

Keep the peace between OS X and OS 9 (Mac)

Although Mac OS X gives us more and more reason to leave our past behind, every once in a while we have to venture back into OS 9. If you use iTunes while in OS 9, you may notice it wants to keep a separate iTunes Library from its OS X sibling. There's a way to make it play nice with the OS X version's Library, however. In the OS 9 version, go to **Edit > Preferences** (Or use the Command-Y keyboard shortcut). Click the **Advanced Tab** and then **click the Change button** located next to the iTunes Music folder location. When the new window opens, **navigate to your home folder** by going **Users > (Your User Name Here) > Music > iTunes > iTunes Music** and **click Choose**. Now your OS 9 version will automatically use your OS X music folder. Any change made to the Library in either version will now also show up in the other.



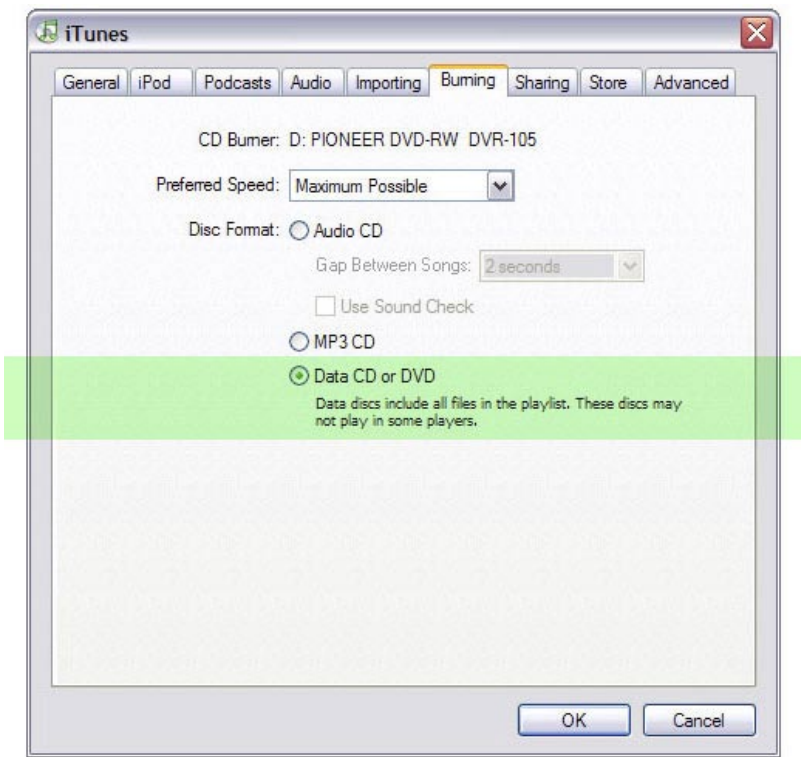
24

What word appears on every iPod's cardboard instructions and warranty holder?
A. Play B. Enjoy C. Welcome D. Open

Back up your music to DVD

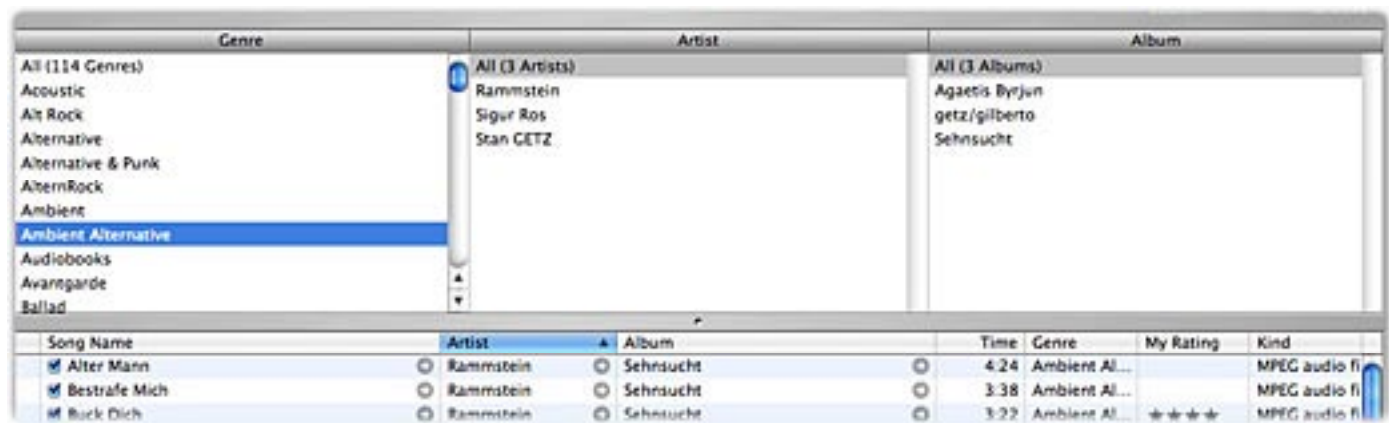
If you have a Library that needs serious backup capacity, and you have a DVD burner for your PC or Mac, you can back your music up on a DVD straight from iTunes. To do so, open the Preferences window and click the **Burning Tab**. You will see an option to burn **Data CD or DVD**. Clicking this option will ready iTunes for immediate Library backup. Now simply **create a Playlist containing your entire Library** (iTunes can only burn Playlists) and click **Burn Disc** (top right of window). iTunes will ask for a blank disc, start burning, and if need be, it will prompt for more discs when it has filled up the previous one. It will do this until all the songs are backed up, whether you use CDs or DVDs.

It's important to note that these are data discs - basically only good for restoring your music in the unfortunate event that you lose your's due to a crashed hard drive, system reinstall, or the like. **But they don't contain your Playlists, Ratings, or other information.** To back those up, you'll need to **go to the iTunes folder**, which is located in your My Documents > My Music folders if you are running Windows, or your Music folder (inside your home folder) if you use Mac OS X. It contains three items: two files, one called iTunes 4 Music Library and another called iTunes Music Library.xml (though you may not see this extension), and another folder called iTunes Music. **Copy everything except for the iTunes Music folder to a CD**, and you'll save your playlists and ratings. If your hard drive is reformatted reinstall iTunes, and drop these files back into the new iTunes Music folder on your new computer.



Finding bad tags with Browse mode

Previously, we showed you how to sort your music in the main window. Now, we'll talk about **Browse** (control-B on PC, command-B on Mac). Three columns will drop down - Genre, Artist and Album.

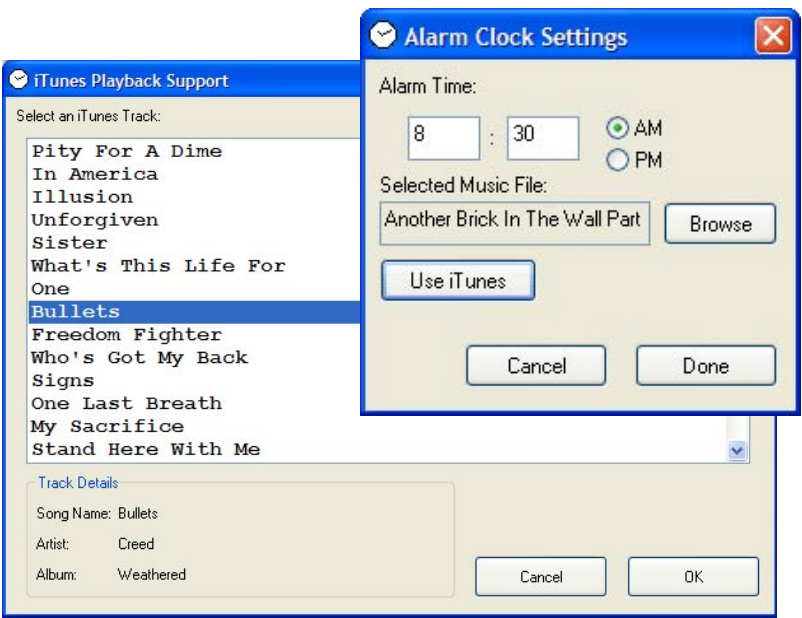


Clicking on a Genre will narrow your search to just Artists in the Genre, and clicking an Artist narrows the Albums to just those by that Artist. As you can tell from the screenshot, the Browse method can be a good way to make sure your Genre Tags are correct. Using this feature also helps you get a feel for the iPod navigation system, since all three are menu options on your iPod.

Use iTunes as an alarm clock

Using the iPod as an alarm is all well and good, but sometimes (OK, most of the time) it's more convenient to use iTunes as a wake-up call. Unfortunately, iTunes doesn't have this functionality built-in, but there is a small, helpful, and best of all - free - application that provides it. Appropriately named **iAlarm**, it can be downloaded at xultrasoft.com/iAlarm/ (capitalization required).

Once installed, open it up and you will see a window full of options. The ones we are concerned with appear at the very top, with a checkbox next to the iTunes label. First, **set the time** in the fields above. Once you have the time you want, **click in the checkbox next to iTunes**, and if desired, **select a Playlist**. Underneath the Playlist list box is a slider to **set the volume for iTunes** when you wake up. The rest of the options can be explained by rollover helper boxes, but it is worthwhile to know that **at the bottom is the iTunes Sleep Timer**, where you can set iTunes to stop playing at a certain time, and then start up at your set alarm time.



There's also a free Windows PC take on the iTunes Alarm Clock concept called - wait for it - **iTunes Alarm Clock** (rpi.edu/~desimn/alarmclock/). It's not the sexiest application we've ever seen, but it's free, and it will wake you up to a song of your choice at a time of your choosing.

25

Which classic Apple Macintosh font was used for the menu screens of all full-sized black-and-white iPods?
A. Chicago B. Espy Sans C. Helvetica D. Times

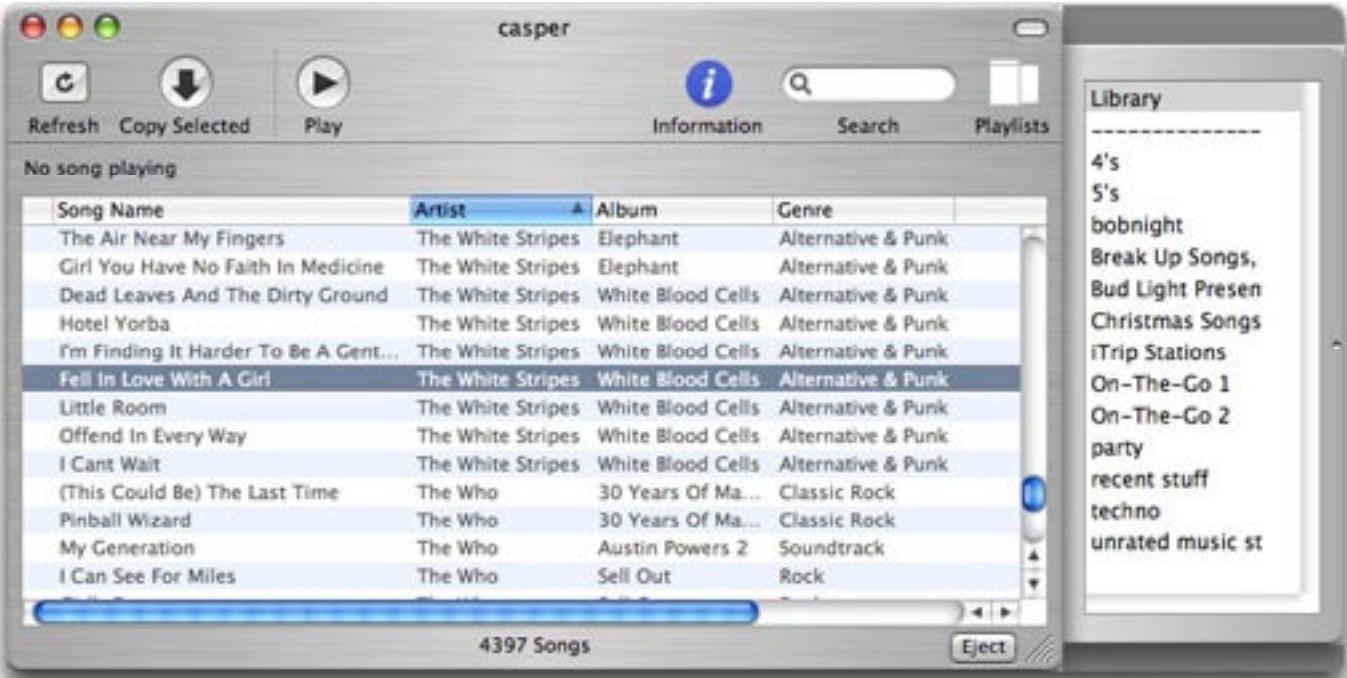
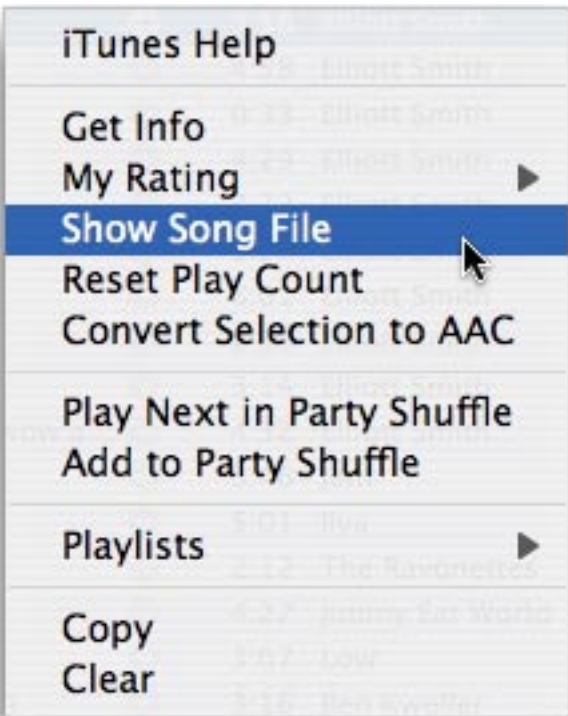
Show any song's location

If you're ever using iTunes and need quick access to a selected song's file, try out this tip. By **Right-clicking (PC) or Control-clicking (Mac) on a song** and **selecting Show Song File**, you can have iTunes instantly bring up the song's file in Windows or the Mac Finder.

Copy from your iPod to your Mac

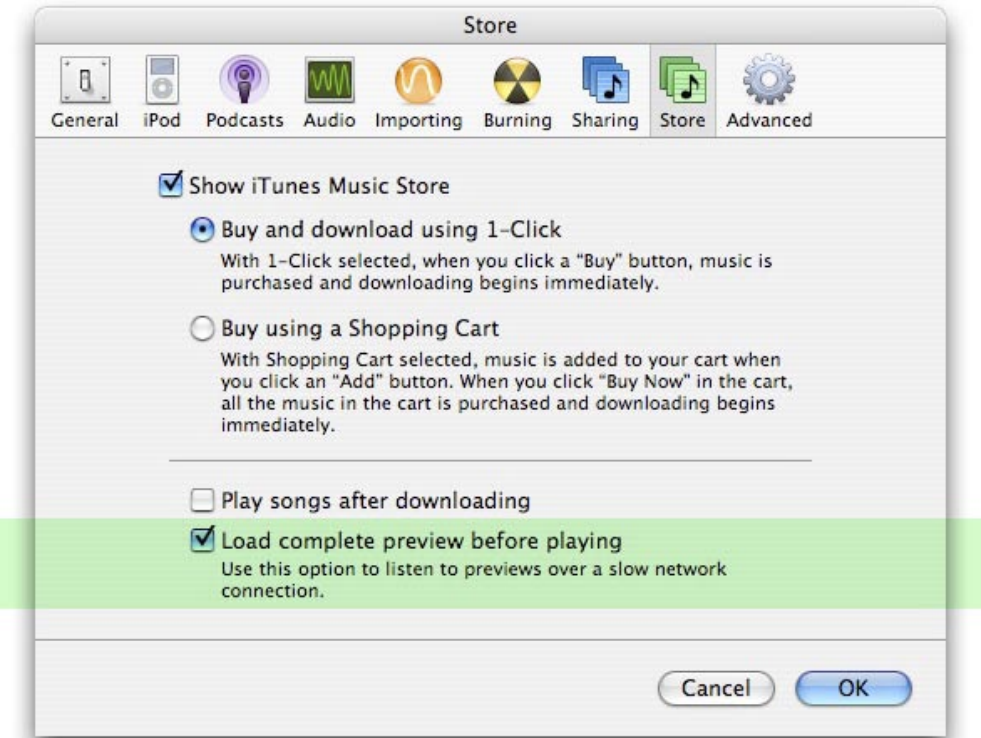
OK, OK - so Apple doesn't really want you doing this, but there are ways to transfer songs from an iPod to your Mac. However, you'll need a third-party application to do it. We recommend a program called **Senuti**, which can be downloaded at ambitiouslemon.com/senuti/. Once you have it installed, make sure your iPod is attached and start the program. It will automatically recognize the iPod and load up every song from the iPod's Library as well as all of its Playlists.

Can't remember which song it was you needed to copy over? Senuti has a Play button for just that purpose. **Once you have the songs you need selected, hit the Copy Selected button** and a window will slide down allowing you to **pick the destination for your songs**. Not only does it get the songs from the iPod and put them where you selected, but it reads the ID3 tags and stores the songs in the same folder structure that iTunes uses. This is one slick piece of software, and it makes for one slick tip.



No more crappy previews on dial-up

If you're not using the fastest of Internet connections while doing your shopping at the iTunes Music Store, you might want to set your options so that song previews have to load completely before trying to play them. Otherwise, they might not sound so swell. Just open the **Preferences** window, and in the **Store Tab** select the **Load complete preview before playing** checkbox.



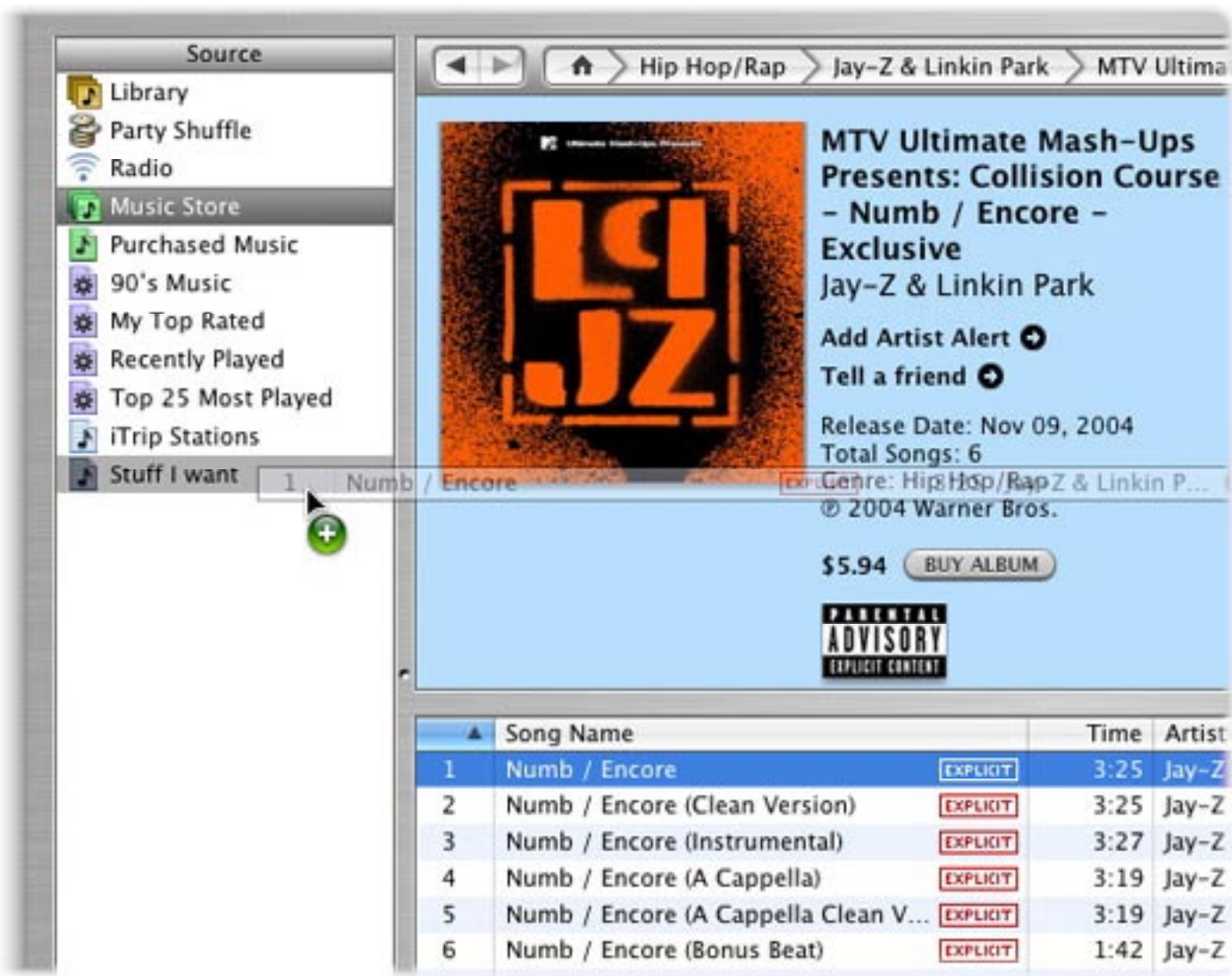
Multiple iPods, one computer

So, you can't "officially" use an iPod with more than one computer, but you can use more than one iPod with a single computer. Using more than one iPod is simple - you just do the same thing you'd do if you were only using one. In earlier versions of iTunes, some of the special menu options unique to the color iPod wouldn't appear if you had a different iPod flavor connected at the same time. But now, Apple's fixed the problem by creating an iPod-by-iPod manager. Go into **Preferences** and the **iPod Tab**. If two or more iPods are connected, **select the iPod you want to play with**. The correct collection of options will be displayed for each one.



Make an iTunes Music Store wishlist

Instead of adding all the tracks you're lusting after to the iTunes Music Store's shopping cart (and hoping you can pay your credit card down so you can buy them all later), you might want to create a new Playlist called "Stuff I want" (or something similar). Now, just drag 30-second song previews into the Playlist so you can listen to them even when you're not browsing the store (you can also buy the tracks directly from this Playlist). This way, you can check them out whenever the mood strikes you - and weed out the ones you can live without.



Capturing the Visualizer

If you have a Visual that you particularly like and would like to use as a desktop background or in a presentation, there is an easy way to do it. You need to have the Visualizer running in Full Screen mode for this tip to work. Once it's on, and the Visual you want to capture is on screen, use the PC's Print Screen button or the Mac's Command-Shift-3 Keyboard command to take a Screenshot. On the Mac, your Visual will be saved as a Picture file on your desktop. On the PC, the screenshot will be sitting in your Clipboard, and you can paste it into a graphics editor or a mail message. These shortcuts work at any time, not just in iTunes.

27

The name of Apple's co-promotion with Volkswagen was which of the following?
A. Bug and a Pod B. iPod Your Beetle C. Pods Unite D. iLove Your VW

Copy from your iPod to your PC

While there are many third-party programs that perform iPod-to-PC transfers (and you can find virtually all of them found in iLounge.com's Downloads section), we'll take a look at PodUtil here - a £10 Shareware program which offers powerful copy features and iTunes playlist regeneration. It works on PCs and Macs, just in case you want an option other than Senuti.

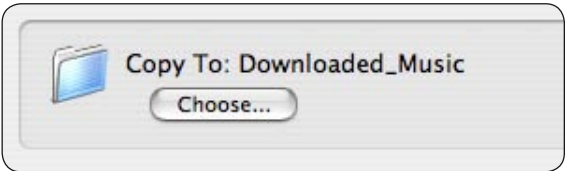
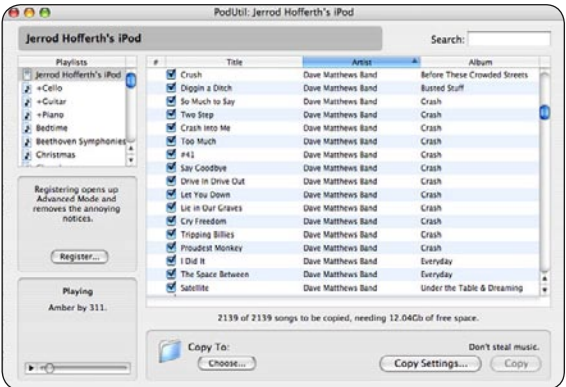
Start on the computer you want to use as an iPod receiving station, and make sure iTunes is installed. Then download PodUtil (kennett.net.co.uk/software/podutil.php), and install it on the computer. Next, connect your iPod to your computer with one of Apple's cables. Whatever you do, CLICK NO if and when iTunes asks you whether you want to delete the content on your iPod. And ensure that Enable Disk Use is selected for your iPod in the iTunes Preferences iPod Tab.

Now launch PodUtil. PodUtil will detect your iPod, examine its database, and display a list of all of your tracks in the main window, with a listing of your playlists on the left. In this window, you can search for tracks (in the top right corner) or preview them straight off of the iPod by double clicking on one.

To prepare for the music copying process, you'll need to make a few choices. At the bottom of the main PodUtil window, pick the computer directory where PodUtil should dump iPod music. Then, at the bottom right of the main window, hit the Copy Settings button. PodUtil can create separate subdirectories for each Artist and Album in your collection if you select these two options. If you turn on the additional iTunes features, PodUtil will automatically add the copied songs to your library and recreate your iTunes playlists -- two helpful features when restoring lost libraries.

Next, de-select the songs (either in the main track list or in individual playlists) that you don't want to transfer to the computer. When only the correct tracks are selected, click Copy in the bottom right of the main window to begin the process!

When the upload is complete, you'll have a directory (or, if you selected the appropriate options, an iTunes Library) full of your iPod music. With only a few button clicks, you have now transferred your iPod's entire music library to your computer.



✓ All I Want	Alanis Morissette
✓ You Oughta Know	Alanis Morissette
✓ Perfect	Alanis Morissette
✓ Hand in My Pocket	Alanis Morissette
✓ Right Through You	Alanis Morissette
✓ Forgiven	Alanis Morissette
⊖ You Learn	Alanis Morissette
⊖ Head Over Feet	Alanis Morissette

Play songs on your iPod from other digital music stores

OK, so there isn't some secret trick that allows you to use your iPod to play songs that you've downloaded from those "other" online music stores such as Napster, Musicmatch, and RealNetworks. There is, however, a dirty workaround. Using software that actually plays the store's music, burn it to a CD. Then rip the tracks with iTunes in unprotected AAC or MP3 format, which iTunes and iPod can handle. That's it. You can also apply this tip to the protected AAC songs from the iTunes Music Store if you want to use your purchased music on other players like the Rio Carbon or Sony Network Walkman, assuming you're looking for laughs.

The iPod Directory. Whether you're looking for the contact information for an iPod accessory maker or places that offer iPod-related services, start with our new Directory - all the key players are listed here, and easy to find.

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Customizing Services	134
FM Transmitter Manufacturers	134
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Software Developers (iPod)	135
Software Developers (Mac)	136
Software Developers (PC)	136
Speaker & Mic Manufacturers	137
Stand & Mount Manufacturers	138

Adapter/Cable Manufacturers

- Audio Outfitters**
http://www.audio-outfitters.com/
(800) 780-IPOD
CustomerService@audio-outfitters.com
- Belkin**
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com
- Bluelounge**
http://www.bluelounge.com/
(626) 564-2802
mail@bluelounge.com
- BoxWave**
http://www.boxwave.com/
customerservice@boxwave.com
- Brando Workshop**
http://shop.brandocom.hk/
brando@brandocom.hk
- CompuCable**
http://www.compucable.com/
(800) 344-6921
support@addlogix.com

- Digital Age Products**
http://www.digitalageproducts.com/
(888) 716-6395
info@digitalageproducts.com
- Griffin Technology**
http://www.griffintechology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechology.com
- Kensington**
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700
- Macally**
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com
- Monster Cable Products, Inc.**
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000
- Newer Technology**
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com
- Nyko**
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com
- Pacific Rim Technologies**
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com
- PodGear**
http://www.podgear.net/
+44 (0) 1494 522 721
info@disruptivegroup.com
- SendStation**
http://www.sendstation.com/
+49 (69)-94413841
info@sendstation.com
- SiK**
http://www.sik.com/
(650) 701-1745
info@sik.com

- Sonnet Tech**
http://www.podfreq.com/
(949) 472-2772
support@sonnettech.com
- Tunewear**
http://www.tunewear.com/
info@tunewear.com
- XtremeMac**
http://www.xtrememac.com/
(954) 385-9877
support@xtrememac.com
- Battery Manufacturers**
- Audio Outfitters**
http://www.audio-outfitters.com/
(800) 780-IPOD
CustomerService@audio-outfitters.com
- Battery Technology, Inc. (BTI)**
http://www.batterytech.com/
(626) 336-6878
info@batterytech.com
- Belkin**
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com
- Better Energy Systems**
http://www.solio.com/
solio@betterenergy.co.uk
- FastMac**
http://www.fastmac.com/
(408) 850-6232
support@fastmac.com
- iPodResQ**
http://www.ipodresq.com/
(877) POD-REPA
info@ipodresq.com
- Maxell**
http://www.maxell-usa.com/
(800) 533-2836
techsupp@maxell.com

The iPod Directory is the first comprehensive listing of major providers of iPod-related goods and services, located around the world. We have attempted to include as many companies as possible in the Directory, and do not require advertising or other editorial participation in order to add a qualified business name to this list. If you are the owner of a business and wish to submit or update information on your business, please visit ilounge.com/directory/.

- Newer Technology**
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com
- Nyko**
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com
- PDASmart**
http://www.pdasmart.com/
(512) 258-4500
info@PDASmart.com
- TechRestore, Inc.**
http://techrestore.com/
(866) 967-3786
help@techrestore.com
- Tekkeon**
http://www.tekkeon.com/
(888) 787-5888
Support@Tekkeon.com
- Battery Replacement Services**
- FastMac**
http://www.fastmac.com/
(408) 850-6232
support@fastmac.com
- iPodMechanic**
http://ipodmechanic.com/
(877) 726-0608
info@ipodmechanic.com
- iPodMods**
http://www.ipodmods.com/
(888) 763-6637
sales@ipodmods.com
- iPodResQ**
http://www.ipodresq.com/
(877) POD-REPA
info@ipodresq.com
- iPodRestore**
http://ipod.techrestore.com/
(877) FOR-IPOD
help@techrestore.com
- Other World Computing**
http://eshop.macsales.com/
(800) 275-4576
- TechRestore, Inc.**
http://techrestore.com/
(866) 967-3786
help@techrestore.com
- UKiPodRepairs**
http://www.ukipodrepairs.co.uk/
info@ukipodrepairs.co.uk
- Car Accessory Manufacturers**
- Belkin**
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com
- Brando Workshop**
http://shop.brandocom.hk/
brando@brandocom.hk
- Digital Age Products**
http://www.digitalageproducts.com/
(888) 716-6395
info@digitalageproducts.com
- Digital Lifestyle Outfitters**
http://www.dlodirect.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
customerservice@everythingipod.com
- Griffin Technology**
http://www.griffintechology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechology.com
- Hebe Styling**
http://www.hebestyling.com/
+44 (0)1132 892 637
info@hebestyling.com
- Kensington**
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700
- Macally**
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com
- Monster Cable Products, Inc.**
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000
- Neo Car Audio**
http://www.neocaraudio.com/
(858) 689-4141
sales@neocaraudio.com
- Newer Technology**
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com
- Nyko**
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com
- Pacific Rim Technologies**
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com
- Peripheral Electronics**
http://periphuralelectronics.com/
(727) 572-9255
Support@periphuralelectronics.com
- PodGear**
http://www.podgear.net/
+44 (0) 1494 522 721
info@disruptivegroup.com
- ProClip**
http://www.proclipusa.com/
(800) 296-3212
support@proclipusa.com
- Pro-Fit International, Inc.**
http://www.pro-fit-intl.com/
(800) 388-0073
sales@pro-fit-intl.com
- Scosche Industries**
http://www.scosche.com/
(800) 363-4490
sales@scosche.com
- SiK**
http://www.sik.com/
(650) 701-1745
info@sik.com
- Sonnet Tech**
http://www.podfreq.com/
(949) 472-2772
support@sonnettech.com
- Tekkeon**
http://www.tekkeon.com/
(888) 787-5888
Support@Tekkeon.com
- TEN Technology**
http://www.tentechology.com/
(800) 518-4TEN
info@tentechology.com
- XtremeMac**
http://www.xtrememac.com/
(954) 385-9877
support@xtrememac.com

iLounge reserves the right to exclude any business from this listing at any time if, in iLounge's sole judgment, such business has engaged in practices in violation of our Policy on Harmful Accessories, or other deceptive practices. However, omission from this list may be inadvertant or for other reasons, and should not be construed as a judgment that any omitted company is engaged in such practices. An updated iPod Directory will be available on ilounge.com.

Case & Clip Manufacturers

A.B. Sutton
<http://www.absutton.com/>
help@absutton.com

Acme Made
<http://www.acmemade.com/>
(888) 486-3191
info@acmemade.com

Agent18
<http://www.agent18.com/>
questions@agent18.com

Aneta Genova, Inc.
<http://www.anetagenova.com/>
(212) 965-1089
info@anetagenova.com

Apple
<http://www.apple.com/>
(800) 275-2273

Arty
<http://wrappers.typepad.com/arty/>
debbieabroad@aol.com

Audio Outfitters
<http://www.audio-outfitters.com/>
(800) 780-IPOD
CustomerService@audio-outfitters.com

Belkin
<http://www.belkin.com/>
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

Booq, LLC.
<http://www.booqbags.com/>
(626) 836-9365

BoxWave
<http://www.boxwave.com/>
customerservice@boxwave.com

Brando Workshop
<http://shop.brando.com.hk/>
brando@brando.com.hk

Bruddy, LLC.
<http://www.bruddy.com/>
info@bruddy.com

Budfrog (Hook Industries, LLC.)
<http://budfrog.com/>
info@budfrog.com

Burberry
<http://www.burberry.com/>
(866) 589-0499

Burning Love
<http://www.burninglove.biz/>

Burton Snowboards
<http://www.burton.com/>
(800) 881-3138
info@burton.com

Capdase
<http://www.capdase.com/>
(852) 2191 2173
info@capdase.com

Case Closed Bags, Inc.
<http://www.caseclosedbags.com/>
(866) 366-0913
april@caseclosedbags.com

Chums, Inc.
<http://www.chums.com/>
(800) 222-CHUM

Contour Design, Inc.
<http://contourdesign.com/>
(800) 462-6678
info@contourdesign.com

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters
<http://www.dlodirect.com/>
(800) 866-IPOD
customerservice@everythingipod.com

DVForge
<http://www.dvforge.com/>
(615) 822-9270

E&B Company
<http://www.ebcases.com/>
(858) 385-1976
cs@ebcases.com

Eroch Studios
<http://www.lilipods.com/>
info@lilipods.com

FeltCafe
<http://www.feltcafe.net/>
liz@feltcafe.net

Fossil, Inc.
<http://www.fossil.com/>
(972) 234-2525
webguy@fossil.com

Geek Culture
<http://www.geekculture.com/>
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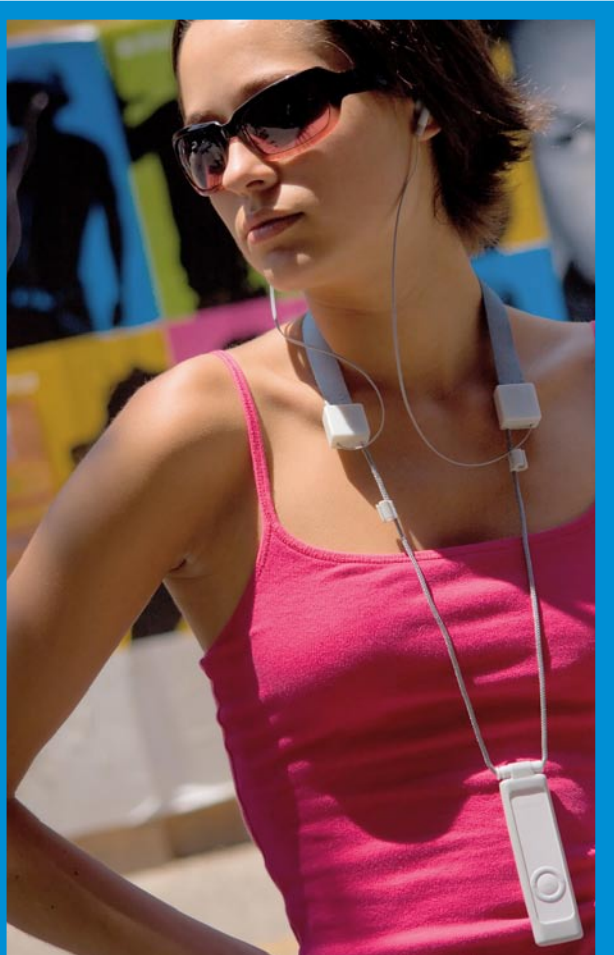
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Since 2001, the world's leading resource for iPod news, reviews, forums, photos, guides, tricks, software, and much more.

Closing the Curtain. iCame, iSaw, iConquered. Dozens of iNames have sprouted up in the wake of the iPod's success - here are the best of them.

Why i?

Prior to i, which was originally perceived to mean "Internet-ready," the in-vogue letter was e, as in eBooks, eCommerce, E-Mail, and eTrade. Apple wasn't the first to append i to the name of a cool product, but the iMac, iBook, and iPod certainly helped spark a trend. Our list leaves out the many iMac- and iBook-related accessories that have been released over the last few years, as well as most software.

Battle of the iFis

Even with all the dictionaries or thesauruses in the world, two companies can still settle on the same iName. Klipsch was first with the iFi, but U.K.-based Hebe Styling later announced a different product with the same name. That's not the only conflict that's taken place: similar sounding iNames (iPed and iPod) have caused problems with Apple, as well as many other companies.

A Boring Future?

Is iNaming becoming too trite to sustain as a trend? We hope not. There are still plenty of exploitable words left in dictionaries, especially the unabridged ones, say nothing of all of the foreign language possibilities. And once in a while, an iName is actually funny or appropriate rather than bizarre or predictable. We're keeping our fingers crossed for brighter ideas to come from the iPod economy.

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iBlue	d.Muse	Bluetooth phone interrupter
IBoost	Nyko	Battery pack
iCable	Monster Cable	Stereo audio cable
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ICase	Monster Cable/Incase	Travel case
iChant	Mythix	Tiny speaker system
iCheer	Ignitek	iPod shuffle speaker system
iCleaner	iCleaner	Cleaning/polishing solution
iCruiser	Ignitek	Speaker system
iCruze	Monster Cable	High-end car integration kit
i-Deck	Monitor Audio	High-end speaker system
iDock	Brando	Replacement iPod dock
iDockCovers	Westshore Craftworks	Wood iPod dock covers
i-Dog	Sega/Tiger Toys	Robot dog for iPod
IDirect	DLO	Remote control
iDuo	Atech Flash Technology	Memory card reader/iPod dock
iFi	Hebe Styling	iPod dock for home stereo
iFi	Klipsch	Premium speaker system
iFill	Griffin Technology	Internet radio recorder
iFM	Griffin Technology	FM tuner
iGrab	Rivet	Car holder
IGrip	Handstands	Sticky car holder
iGuy	Speck Products	Alien iPod case/holder
iHam on iRye	Searchware Solutions	Network iTunes controller
iHome iH5	iHome/SDI Tech.	AM/FM Clock Radio
iJet	ABT	RF remote control
iKlear	Meridrew Enterprises	Cleaning solution
iLeath	iLeath, Inc.	Photo printed leather cases
iLounge	Us	World's leading iPod/iTunes site
iMojo	iMojo	Maker of shuffle Sweats
iPak/iSnug	Handstands	Travel cases (renamed to iSnug)
iPAL	Tivoli Audio	Radio and speaker
iPed	Thought Out	iPod stands (renamed to Ped)
i-Phono	Bluetake	iPod Bluetooth headphones
iPoDonut	FrontField	Stickers for iPod wheels
iPort	Sonance/iPort	In-wall dock
iPouch	Moshi / Aevoe	Fabric case
iSee	Contour Design	Clear plastic case
iSkin	iSkin, Inc.	Silicone rubber cases
iSleeve	Terforma	Plastic exercise cases
iSongBook	Tivoli Audio	Clock radio w/ speakers
iSplitter	Monster Cable	Headphone jack splitter
iSqueez/PodPod	Griffin Technology	Car mount (renamed iSqueez)
iSport	Speck Products	Athletic case
ISportCase	Monster Cable	Plastic case
i-Station	Logic3	Portable speakers
iTalk	Griffin Technology	Voice recorder and speaker
iTop	Nyko	Button relocater
iTrip/iTripLCD	Griffin Technology	FM transmitters
iVault	Griffin Technology	Aluminum shuffle cases
i-Vod/iVod DJ	Vaja	Premium leather cases
iZ	Zizzle	Interactive music toy

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